Ero Manga Sensei Volume 3

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えろまんがせんせい

エロマンガ先生

いもうとととようせいのしま

eromanga sensei

妹と妖精の島

伏見つかさ

イラスト◆かんざきひろ

3

電撃文庫

ふ-8-20

エロマンガ先生③

妹と妖精の島

伏見つかさ

電撃文庫

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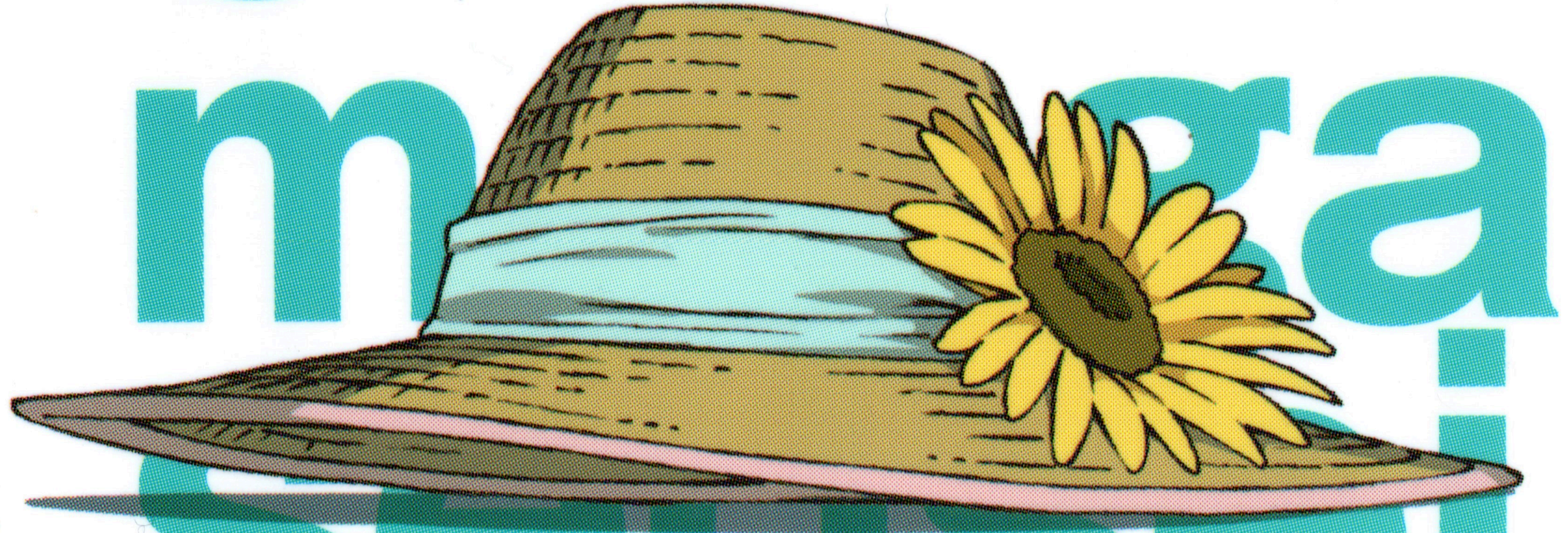
ero manga sensei



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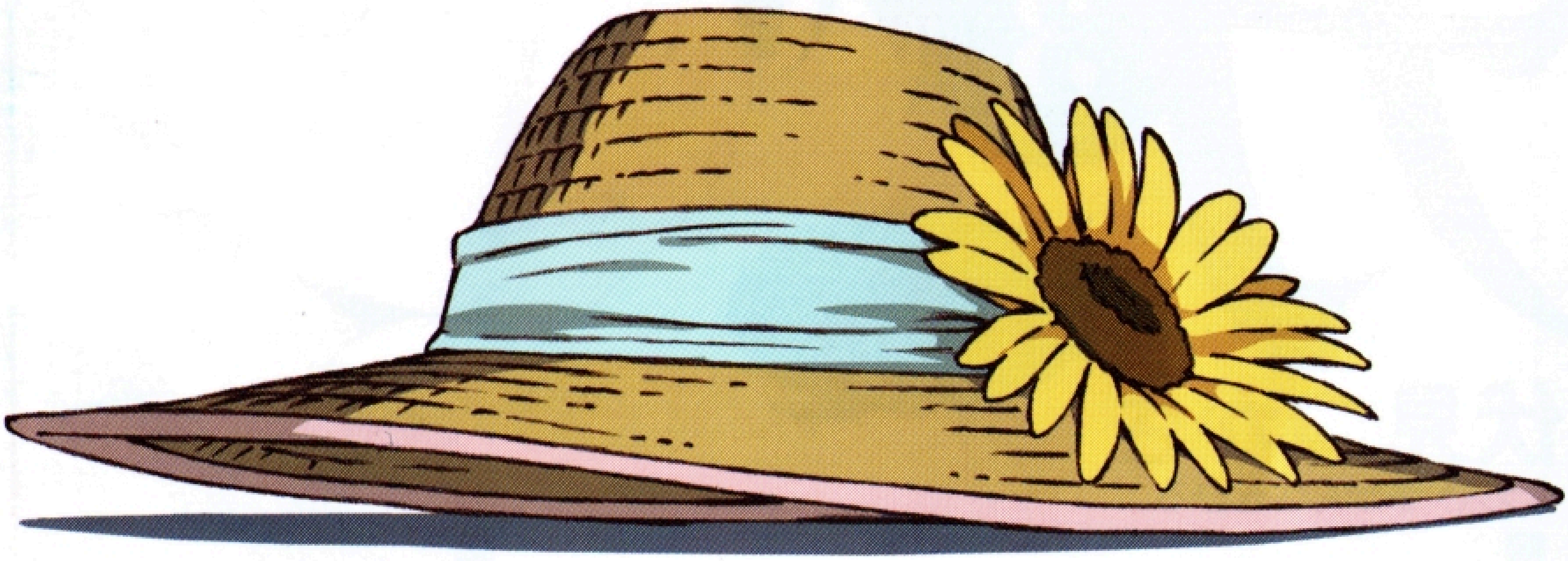
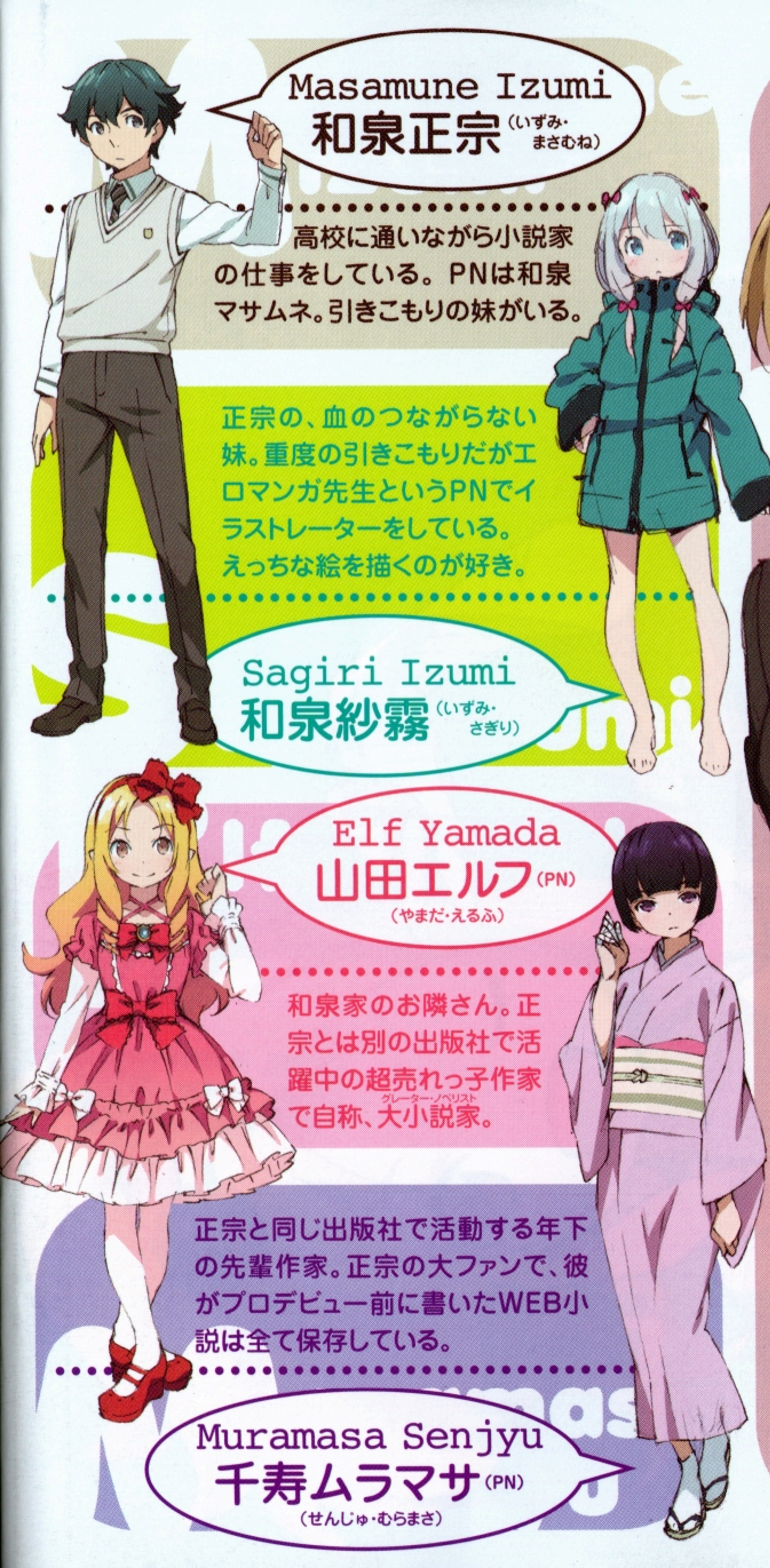


デザイン●伸童舎

ふふふっ。
どうやら、わたしたちの
水着姿に、
ときめいてしまったようね！
eromanga sensei ③ imouto to yousei no shima
Elf Yamada &
Muramasa Senjyu
エロマンガ先生
妹と妖精の島



Masamune Izumi
和泉正宗（いずみ・まさむね）

高校に通いながら小説家の仕事をしている。PNは和泉マサムネ。引きこもりの妹がいる。

Sagiri Izumi
和泉紗霧（いずみ・さぎり）

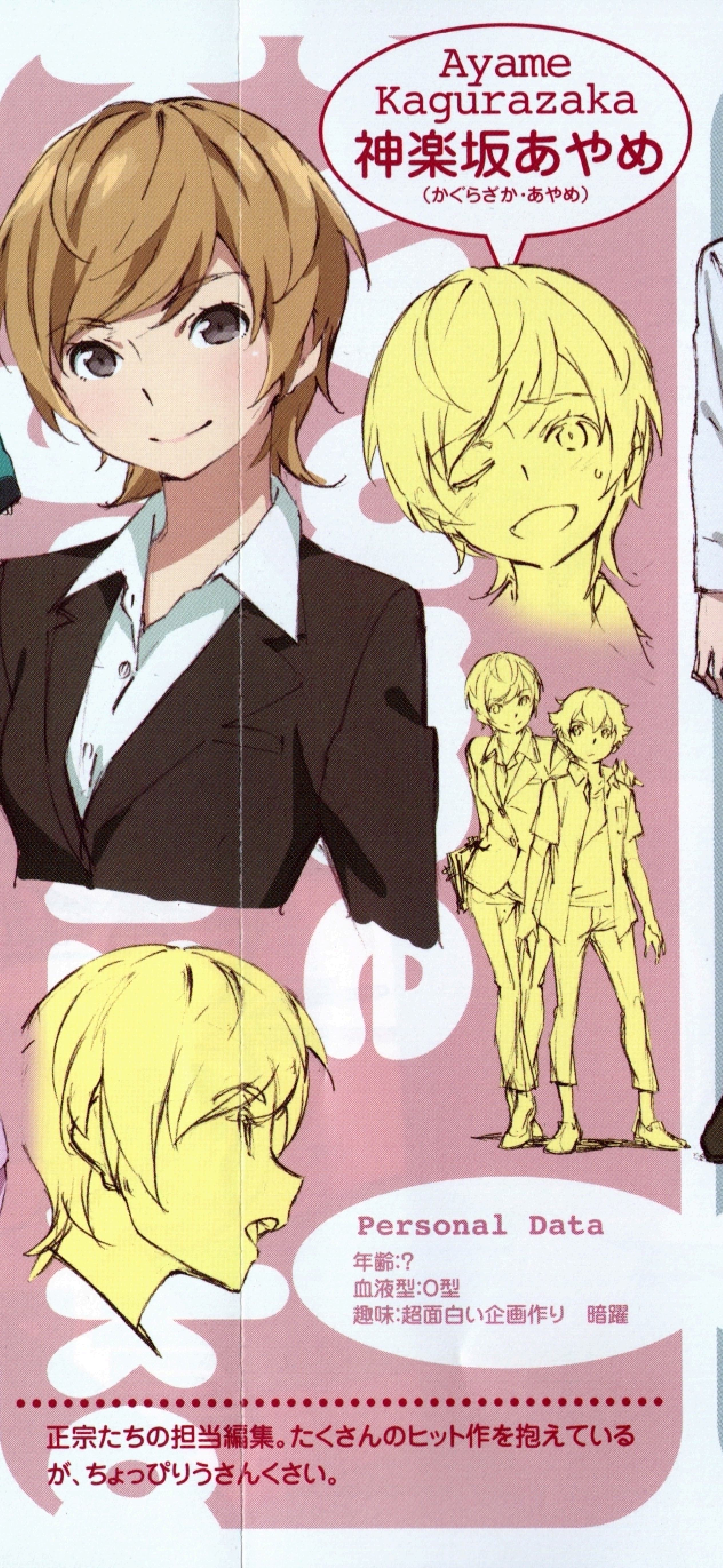
正宗の、血のつながらない妹。重度の引きこもりだがエロマンガ先生というPNでイラストレーターをしている。えっちな絵を描くのが好き。

Elf Yamada
山田エルフ（PN）
（やまだ・えるふ）

和泉家のお隣さん。正宗とは別の出版社で活躍中の超売れっ子作家で自称、大小説家（グレーター・ノベリスト）。

Muramasa Senjyu
千寿ムラマサ（PN）
（せんじゅ・むらまさ）

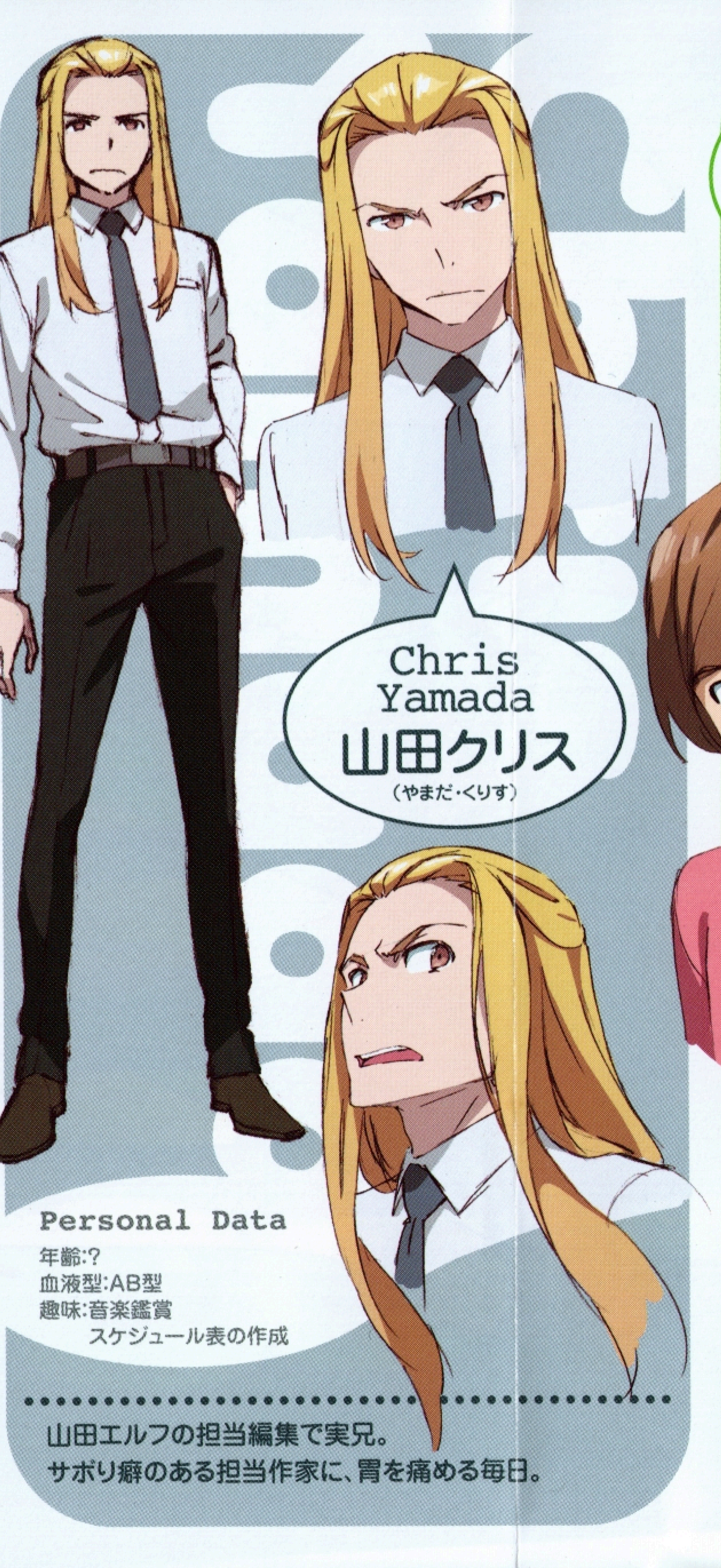
正宗と同じ出版社で活動する年下の先輩作家。正宗の大ファンで、彼がプロデビュー前に書いたWEB小説は全て保存している。



Ayame Kagurazaka
神楽坂あやめ
（かぐらざか・あやめ）

Personal Data
年齢:?
血液型:O型
趣味:超面白い企画作り　暗躍

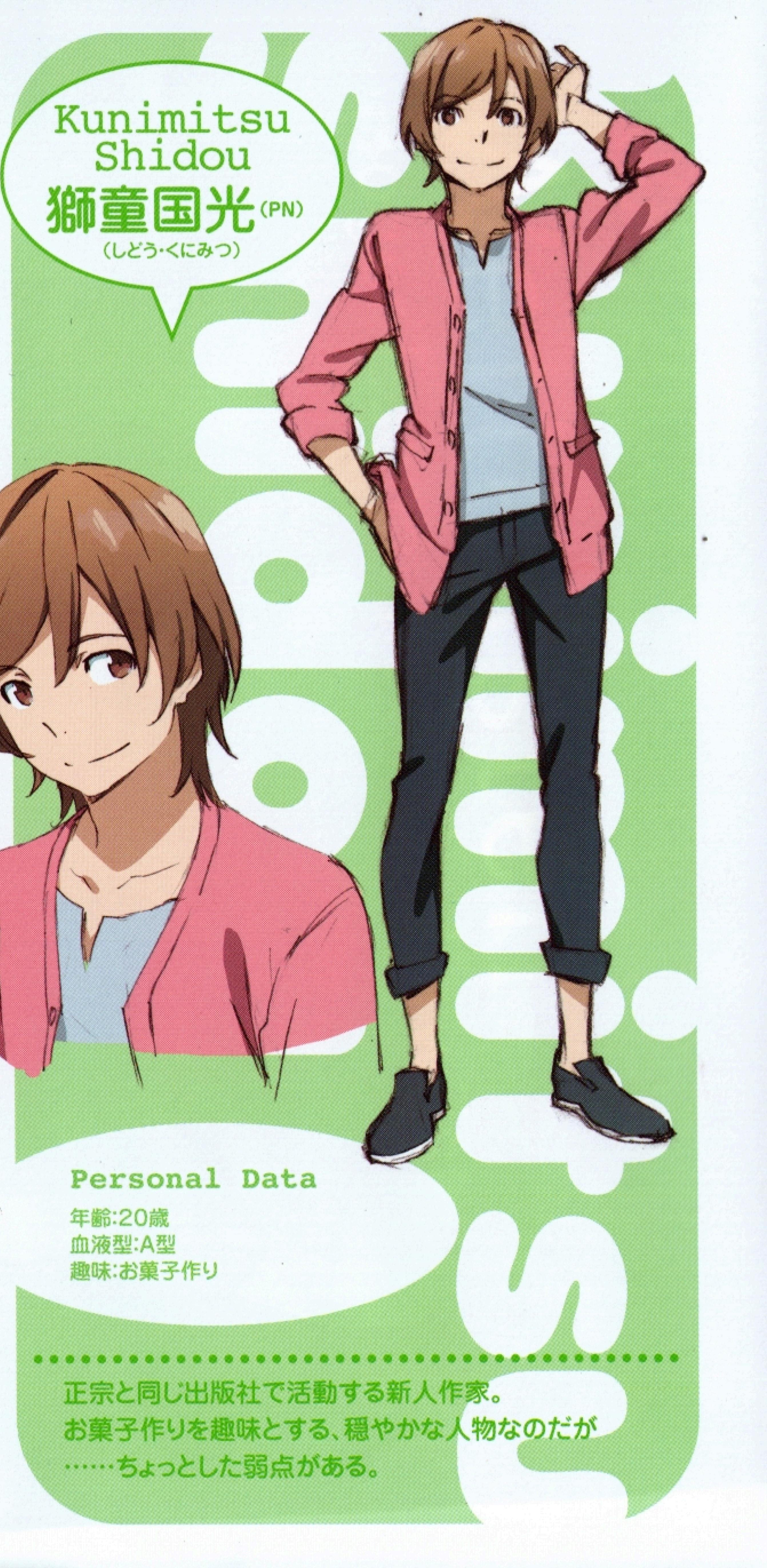
正宗たちの担当編集。たくさんのヒット作を抱えているが、ちょっぴりうさんくさい。



Chris Yamada
山田クリス
（やまだ・くりす）

Personal Data
年齢:?
血液型:AB型
趣味:音楽鑑賞
スケジュール表の作成

山田エルフの担当編集で実兄。
サボり癖のある担当作家に、胃を痛める毎日。



Kunimitsu Shidou
獅童国光（PN）
（しどう・くにみつ）

Personal Data
年齢:20歳
血液型:A型
趣味:お菓子作り

正宗と同じ出版社で活動する新人作家。
お菓子作りを趣味とする、穏やかな人物なのだが
……ちょっとした弱点がある。

えろまんがせんせい

エロマンガ先生

eromanga
sensei

3

妹と
妖精の島

伏見つかさ

イラスト・かんざきひろ

Chapter 1

第一章

Izumi Masamune. Fifteen years old. High school, third year. Right now, I'm living as both a high school student and an author. My pen name is Izumi Masamune.

For various reasons, it has been a year since I began to live together alone with my hikikomori little sister.

"I need to quickly become independent to support my hikikomori little sister" - That was what I once thought.

But now, I know that I was over thinking things.

Because my little sister - the blue eyed, white hair beauty Izumi Sagiri is the illustrator, Eromanga-sensei.

In some ways, her work paid even better than mine.

Let me take care of you

She also thought the same as me.

This is not ***your dream*** *-- this is* ***our dream****.*

We worked together and dreamt a dream together.

I fell in love with my little sister at first sight. After she rejected me, that feeling only burned brighter. I like Sagiri even more than before.

I like her all day and night.

I have someone I like.

But Sagiri has someone she likes.

So I tried to become her brother, to protect her, support her.

…Although it didn't sound very promising, and it wasn't like I could do anything right now…but…

The plan to "bring Sagiri outside" is still continuing.

This is the only way for my little sister to meet the person she likes.

Then I will bring you out of your room to watch the anime together! My original story, your character, our anime!

Because that is our dream.

Because that was the most happy thing in the world that I could think of.

Two of us laughing together without worrying about any bad memories. I wanted us to become that kind of siblings.

Now it is August, during the summer break.

After I escape from my homework, I spent all of my time writing without doing anything else. And I didn't do it in my room as usual. Recently, I lived at the editors department and kept making changes to my manuscript.

Some of you may have forgotten, so let me remind you again:

In July, I participated in World Light Novel Tournament and won the right to publish my story. My newest novel *The cutest little sister in the world* was scheduled to be published on September 10th .

Oohhhhhhhhhhraaaaaaaaaaa!!!! I focused all of my strength into writing.

It was the same way that I used to write.

But this time, the work was basically "decided in July, published in September" so time is short - well, although I said so, most of you probably wouldn't understand.

But my editors department has a habit of setting deadlines for manuscripts three months before publishing, so you guys just remember how hard it is.

Okay, got it?

Anyway, the reason I was so busy recently was like this:

The schedule planned to publish my novel was made at July 20th.

About ten days later, I submitted my manuscript for the World Light novel Tournament. Then I met with my editor, re-submitted my edited manuscript. Followed by another meeting, edit, check, debate, another edit, another debate…..

My recent days were all like that until yesterday, when I finished my final manuscript.

"It's done. It's done."

I'm not saying this as a metaphor, because when I returned home, I felt so tired that I immediately slept like a log. Right now, I just woke up.

"Phew….ah….."

I did some light stretching and yawn.

The clock said that now is six o'clock. Although I wanted to sleep more, but…

"Alright, let's get up."

It has been a few days since I left and I was worried about my little sister. Did she remember to eat properly? Was she well? Did she remember to take a bath and brush her teeth before sleep?

And the most important thing: I wanted to see the girl I liked - Sagiri's face. I wanted to report to Eromanga-sensei that "I have finished a very good novel!"

Of course, there are still many possible problems before it could be published, and I still can't totally let my guard down --- but anyway, for now, I passed.

*Bang*The ceiling shook.

Another day for me and my little sister has begun.

Her "breakfast request" startled me. I finished making the meal, placed it on the tray and went to the stairs. Today I made chicken salad plus boiled eggs and fruit yogurt. My little sister's taste is pretty light, but I decided to make another one for myself. After a few days without anything but bentou from convince stores, I wanted something else - not to mention that I had a secret suggestion.

"Sagiri ~ breakfast is here."

I called toward *the locked room*

Normally, I would have put it down at the doorstep and left. But today I remained standing here.

Although I knew that Sagiri hated meeting people ---

But recently -- we sometimes meet face to face.

And Elf. And Megumi too. Maybe they could become friends.

That's why -- well, ah, I wasn't counting.

I only wanted to see my little sister. Just seeing her for a bit is fine.

"…That wasn't good."

Since last year, we hardly had any conversation. The last time was ----

Ag….damn…I wanted to see Sagiri….

My head was so troubled because of that thought, because of my little sister.

Suddenly the door opened. I was totally surprised.

" ----Eh?"

I looked up. *The locked room* was wide opened before me.

In front of me was a beautiful girl in yukata - Sagiri.

"………….I knew it."

My little sister didn't look very surprised seeing me here.

Could it be that she predicted I will be here -- no no, now wasn't the time for this!

"…Sa, Sagiri…what is with that clothes?"

The sight of the girl I liked in yukata made me unable to avert my eyes. I felt like I could die at any moment.

So cute! It was only an instant and yet my head feels like it's burning. I even saw the hallucination of an angel next to my little sister.

Sagiri looked down and whispered:

"…This…that…yukata…."

She was so cute that I was totally held captive.

I can't believe it. She looked so beautiful in a yukata.

By the way, Sagiri wasn't using her headphone as usual. We were taking directly to each other.

She secretly looked at me and said:

"…..U…u."

Seemed like she wanted to say something.

What are you trying to say? How could I understand without you saying it out?

I gave her the tray and took a stab in the dark:

"Why are you ….wearing a yukata?"

"………."

Looked like that question was a "wrong one". Sagiri...pouted. She took the tray from me and placed it inside, and answered:

"Because…."

But even if I waited, nothing came. Was it something hard to say?

I tried my best to guess my little sister's intention.

Let's see. Yukata. Yukata equals summer. Yukata. Summer. Now is August. Last month was July. Summer..

"The firework festival, right?"

"Eh?"

Sagiri's eyes widened.

Now I remembered. About ten days ago, when they announced the result of the World Light novel tournament, the Adachi Arakawa ward had a firework festival. I couldn't go since I was busy that day.

"Could it be…that you wanted to go to the firework festival?"

If that was the case…then it was bad.

She wanted to go to the firework festival, but she couldn't go outside….I left my little sister alone for so long…

"No, not that."

She quickly dismissed that idea of mine.

"Firework festival…is view-able at home by television too….although I was a bit interested in those shop…."

"So you suddenly wanted to go. Sorry, I ---"

"No! This wasn't the case! So…you don't have to pay it any attention! You are doing your best too!"

"……….."

How come…I started feeling like a father who was unable to come to his daughter's Visitation Day and was comforted by her?

Anyway, what Sagiri meant is "although I wanted to go to the firework festival, that wasn't the reason I wore this yukata". She had no reason to lie, so that must be the truth.

"Then…why?"

"No, no reason at all."

Sagiri blushed, she looked excited.

Looked like she didn't plan to answer me. Well, forget it. As long as I could see how cute she was in this clothes.

Still, I might need to think a bit about that firework festival. There is another festival this month too -- but it's going to be difficult for people who couldn't go outside. I need to think of something.

"……Nii-san, what are you thinking?" Sagiri looked up at me and asked.

Since I couldn't afford to let her know about what am I thinking, nor do I wanted to lie, I answered:

"Well, I'm thinking that you looked good in that yukata."

"…Is that so."

"How should I put it…."

"Um, um."

"You looked like Muramasa-senpai."

"---"

Eh?

Why does the air feel a lot colder?

"……Nii-san, what did you just say. Repeat it please."

"Eh…about that…"

Sagiri's empty eyes are so scary! Like a sadistic loli!

"I…meant that…you….looked good in that yukata….just like Muramasa-senpai, you know….Maybe you didn't, but she normally always wear that kind of clothes, it's really good! So what I meant is, you are just like her ----"

"Hm ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~!"

Eh? Eh? Why is her mood getting worse and worse?

I'm doing my best to praise her, right?

"Forget it…..Nii-san."

"Yes?"

"She confessed to you, didn't she?"

"Ack!"

She dropped the bomb on me. The sudden change of topic caught me off guard.

Yes. That was a day in July that I couldn't forget.

I – had a showdown with my long time arch nemesis, the great light novel author, Senjyu Muramasa.

I like you.

She confessed to me.

The senior who is younger than me confessed to me.

"How, how….how could you know about that…."

That happened at the first floor of this house – in the living room. Sagiri should not be able to hear that.

"That…I just know. I could tell. Because, she….with nii…

Sagiri angrily pointed at the JUMP light novel's self and said:

"She confessed to you in your way too, didn't she?"

"Er…yeah…."

Maybe Sagiri knew better than anyone how Muramasa-senpai confessed to me with a hundred pages long novel. Just like I confessed to her with three hundred pages long novel.

Not to mention that Muramasa-senpai's novel didn't hide much ….anyone could knew just from reading carefully.

To be more specific, that included me, Sagiri, Elf – and my editor, Kagurazaka-san too. Maybe some other readers also noticed it.

Thinking back, Muramasa-senpai really did something unexpected.

Truly, love makes people crazy.

"From reading that --- I knew how much…. she liked you….it's very clear….but I don't know your answer."

"I rejected her." I calmly replied: "I told her that I had someone I liked."

That was the same answer Sagiri gave me.

"I see…I see…"

Sagiri's face brighten – then she let out a sigh.

What a strange reaction. In a few seconds, her expression changed twice.

"Hm….it's not like I asked because I care about that or anything …..but in any case…."

Sagiri looked emotionless, but could it be that she is the type who get emotional easily? I'm not entirely sure.

"And? What was her reaction? Ah, it's not like I care about that too….."

"She said: I understand."

The same answered I gave Sagiri. Truly we were so similar.

From our pen name to our style in writing, our favorite style. Both her good points and bad points were several levels above me, but well, I couldn't treat her as an outsider anymore.

"….She didn't."

"What?"

Hearing my question, Sagiri glanced at me:

"I'm sure that she didn't. She said that but the truth is the opposite. She was like you, so when the situation changed a bit, the outcome changed too….maybe."

"What do you mean?"

"Hmm."

Sagiri didn't answer me, only folded her arms across her chest.

"So – Nii-san, what are your feelings toward her?"

"Eh…well….probably…I like her."

"What?"

Sagiri narrowed her eyes cutely. She repeated in a dangerously low tone:

"…..You just said that you rejected her…."

"Yes, I did rejected her. There is no way I could go out with her now, since I like someone else – but it felt really great when someone confessed to me. The first time someone praised my novel to be the best in the world….thus I like her a bit more."

Confession is truly amazing.

We has been enemies for three years, but not anymore.

Now, I could only see her good points. Could praised her with words that I normally used for my little sister.

"Mwu….uuuu…..oh…."

Sagiri moaned, her face showed a lot of confusion. Suddenly she raised her head and asked:

"…How much do you like her?"

"Er….let's see….about….the second place in the world?"

Even I was surprised with how much I liked her.

"So….the one you like most is?"

"About that…."

"Who? Tell. Me. Now!"

Due to her pressure, I had no choice but to point at the one in front of me.

"….You. It's you."

"~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~"

Sagiri immediately shut her eyes and blushed.

She was the one who asked, how strange. I couldn't understand her.

"A, again…! Nii-san…! How could you…"

Sagiri shuttered, she seemed to be on the verge of tears.

"Even if you were rejected, you aren't supposed to like again that quick!"

I'm not sure about the others, but that was my case.

"Hit, hit, hit…..but….u….."

Her small fist beat me, but I didn't felt any pain.

Somehow, the topic had turned an unexpected direction.

Oh damn, it's so embarrassing.

I took this chance to get back to the original topic:

"By the way…Sagiri…why are you wearing a yukata?"

"!"

Sagiri froze for a second ----

"IDIOT----!"

*Clang clang keng**The locked room*'s door slammed shut.

"Hey hey! Sagiri! What is going on?"

No matter how much I called, this time, nothing happened.

"…What the heck is that…"

In the end – my suggestion "Let's eat breakfast together" wasn't voiced out.

I was here before you! I like his novel more than you! I'm the first!

I couldn't understand what Sagiri meant when she screamed those words to Muramasa-senpai.

After finished eating my breakfast alone, I went outside for a walk.

Since I got a bit of free time, now I could simply waited for the publishing day of *The cutest little sister in the world* in September 10th .

"I wonder…how will the reader react to my new novel…."

I hope that they will like it. Maybe it will be popular enough for me to keep writing. Maybe it will become *our dream*

There is nothing I could do about it aside from waiting till my book reached the reader.

In my opinion, novels – after finished, still don't have enough ' power'. Only after they reach the reader, after people begin to like them, does their power begin to grow. Most of that power came from the reader after all. Well, although I said that, Elf and Muramasa-senpai are too strong, they are a special case.

Since now my book hasn't reach the reader, I'm so worried.

It'd be great if people like it. But what if people find it boring?

It has been a long time since I made my debut, but my body still trembles when I think about the publishing day. This hasn't changed since day one.

"…………"

A wind blew across my face.

Arakawa river's surface shone brightly in the sunlight. I stopped, took a deep breath and calmed down. An old man ran by my side in his morning exercise.

"It's useless to worry."

From this revetment, I could saw the Arakawa River. It has been my favorite spot since I was small.

My memories here included playing with Dad, chasing butterfly with friends, catching fish…and practice riding a bicycle too. Now, it became a spot for a novelist like to me think about love…

I was taller now. A lot of thing had happened. My parents aren't here anymore. And now I had a little sister.

But the Arakawa River remained unchanged.

Just when I slowly breathed out…

"Ah! Over here over here! Masamune ~~~~~~"

A loud voice called to me.

"Wow!"

I turned around, faced with a beautiful blond girl in sailor uniform.

It's Yamada Elf – the famous novelist who lived next door – isn't it?

Normally she always wears that fluffy gothic lolita clothing, yet today she wore a sailor uniform. Since she didn't go to school, it looked like she was cosplaying.

"Hm hm, come here at the morning and prepare to spend time to think till sunset! As expected of an author! Good!"

"Are you an idiot?"

You broke me out of my hard-earned trance!

"By the way, what's with that clothes?"

"Eh? This? Hm hm – how is that? Cute isn't it? Much better than Muramasa, right?"

Elf raised her chest, put her arms on her hip and said.

That kind of uniform is pretty popular around here, so I had seen them a lot. Thus I felt nothing from it.

Still, she is so cute. She looks good in anything.

"Are you going to take a cram lesson due to your lack of school time?"

"Of course not!"

Elf bared her teeth like a mad dog and glared at me:

"Normally I never go to school! So I could only wear it during my free time. It'd be boring if I met someone my age when wearing uniform like this. Especially when people try to give me a lecture – such a waste to not wear this cute uniform every time, don't you think?"

"Go to school, please."

Elf ignored me and continued:

"So now I'm showing you my cute uniform."

"…That's why you are looking for me?"

"Of course not. Since I couldn't find you at home this morning, I knew that you would be around here. I had a lot to tell you!"

Elf folded her arms across her chest and said:

"You purposely cut off from your connection with me, didn't you?"

"Er…ah!"

I pulled my cell phone out of my pocket – as expected, it had run out of battery and automatically turned off.

"You are right. Sorry, I spent time at my editors department for the last few days. You know – since the day they announced the results."

"You worked nonstop since that day? Really….Such a rare chance, I was about to grant you the right to invite me to the fireworks festival! A chance to show you my yukata! Both the Arakawa and Sumida's festival is over!"

"Sorry. I will think of some way to pay you back later, please forgive me."

"Eh?"

Elf's eyes widened in surprised:

"What? Why are you being so sublime towards me? This is the first time. Did you suddenly like Elf-sensei? Like me?"

"Like hell I do….I only wanted to apologize."

"Yeah ~ I can see that."

Elf looked at me, her eyes seemed like it could see through everything.

"Forget it. If you want to pay me back, I will gladly accept it. Besides, someone asked me to tell you something."

"Tell me something? From who?"

"Shidou Kuminitsu. One of those authors which you beat in the World Light novel tournament."

I walked together with Elf while chatting.

" The World Light novel tournament huh."

"Yup. He sent me a direct message via twitter which said 「Since Elf-sensei has great relationship with Izumi-sensei, please pass him my word - like that.

Since I didn't have blog or twitter, it was hard to contact Izumi Masamune.

To tell the truth, it's only possible if you asked someone I knew or my editor department.

….That meant everyone had to contact my editors department before.

Anyway, thanks to Elf's crazy message 「I'm on a date with Izumi-sensei , Shidou Kuminitsu-sensei found out another way to contact me.

"We are at the same editor department, shouldn't it be easier to ask my editor…"

"Well, it's a private matter so maybe he hesitated to ask."

"Maybe."

I could understand his reasoning.

"But I'm sure that he mostly wanted to ask Elf-sensei to a party."

Yeah, sure.

"No, included all those participated in this tournament, together with me and Eromanga-sensei - can we do it at your house?"

"I see. Go ahead, no problem."

Although she had a ridiculous skill named "God Eye", she truly did think it through. Who would expect this came from a girl who didn't go to school.

Since we planned to invite Eromanga-sensei who couldn't go outside of that room (of course, participate via Skype is another matter) so we need to do this at my house. A party for everyone to eat and chat.

But since Eromanga-sensei is my little sister, I need to think how to hide this fact. It's better if nothing unexpectedly happened.

By the way, there are going to be me, Elf, Eromanga-sensei, Shidou-sensei. And Senjyu Muramasa-senpai too.

Five in total. After some debated, we decided that I will invite Muramasa-senpai.

….Why does Shidou-sensei think that I could invite Muramasa-senpai?

By the way….

"Are we really going to invite them?"

"Yup. Is there any problems?"

"No…or rather, I think that Shidou-sensei is a bit…unexpected."

The World Light novel tournament's result made sure that only the first place was chosen to be published. So in some way, I blocked Shidou-sensei's way.

If our role were exchange, I would be very upset. There is no way I could enjoy a party. To tell the truth, I had no idea what was Shidou thinking. Not to mention that we don't even know what the other looks like.

"You are right."

Elf understood my reason.

"But in the end, 「three novels with the highest vote will be published ."

"Ha?"

Wait…a second.

The reason I took part in that World light novel tournament in the first place was ---

"Izumi-sensei's newest light novel will be published in May, next year ! Almost a year later! "

"Because other authors were trying their best too, so your spot was pushed farther back. I couldn't keep it open forever."

…….Strange. There is something strange about this. All three will be published?

Why are there are so many spots suddenly open? Something doesn't feel right.

"「It's thanks to my effort ~ to be able to publish so many good novel is my responsibility. ."

Elf mimicked others voice.

"I mimicked your editor. Bet she would say something like that. "

"Definitely! She will definitely say something like that!"

Damn, I don't get it. Although it's not a bad thing for me, or rather I should be happy because everyone's novel would be published…but…

Because…it looked like Shidou-sensei's and Muramasa-senpai's novel would be sold well too.

Even if Izumi Masamune's newest novel would be published a year earlier, I might still have to rewrite part of it…not to mention that I knew nothing about this sudden change….

"Uuuugghhhhhhhh….."

"Okay okay, both the second and third place will be published around December…anyway, you need to make sure you deserve the first place."

Elf said, trying to comfort me.

Because one of the conditions regarding the agreement between me and my aunt to keep living like now - is *to get some achievement* . If I couldn't publish a book during a year, then that means I failed as an novelist - I won't be able to live with my little sister anymore.

"Yeah…you are right…I have to try…still, hopefully that Shidou-sensei is not mad with me."

"Have you figure it out? It will be okay."

"No, there is still a problem!"

"Ha? What is that?" Elf tiredly looked at me.

"That…this…."

"….Ten….nine…..eight….seven…."

She began to countdown while gave me half a glared, probably telling me to hurry up.

I rearranged my thought and answered:

"….It's embarrassing to meet Muramasa-senpai now! I don't know what to do!"

…………………

Hmm? Why is it suddenly so quiet?

Now, I had no idea how I should face someone like me - someone who confessed to me. It's so embarrassing that I don't dare to look directly at her.

Not to mention that I rejected her -- a meeting is really embarrassing.

On a scale of one hundred points, it's still possible to write a million point novel.

That was how Muramasa-senpai sees me.

"Mwu…it's going to be hard."

Elf put her hand under her chin and stared at me.

"Hey hey…don't stare at me like that."

I'm scared of her eyes, which looked like they could see through everything.

"No, let me look -- the situation turning into this is partly related to me."

I don't understand a single bit, but Elf put her face closer. It's now so close that any strange misunderstanding could happen any moment.

"I'm asking you an important question, okay? You - what exactly do you want with Muramasa? No, rather, what kind of relationship do you hope for between you two?"

That was nearly the same question that Sagiri asked. But the content was a bit different, thus the meaning was different as well.

I thought about it a bit before answering:

"…I'd like to improve our relationship, to be able to chat together, play together…but…."

"In other words, you need to see her."

Elf interrupted me.

"Muramasa may not come because of embarrassment - that is what you thought right? You are the type who always over thinks stuff, idiot! If you don't know for sure, just ask her directly!"

"….You are really good at this."

Should I call this straightforward or just naive?

But…if I did like she said…

"I owe you one. Recently I owe you too much…thank you."

"You are welcome…today you are so honest huh?"

Is that so? I felt that I was like this every day.

Later, when I think back to this moment, I don't realize anything out of ordinary.

"There are some things unavoidable when I live together alone with my little sister….it'd be great if Sagiri made a good relationship with my female next door neighbor."

I honestly thanked her, but Elf blushed and turned away.

"…What…what…suddenly….so embarrassing…could it be…you are trying …to conquer me…"

"Not really."

"Ha? So…what?"

"Well, I meant….it'd be great if you were my elder sister."

Unlike usual, this time I said something out of character to my neighbor.

Hearing that, Elf let out a sigh, her expression suddenly darkened.

"Hm. I don't need a younger brother like you."

She pressed her finger against my forehead, muttering:

"Idiot."

After I came home, I took out my cell phone and called my editor.

It's still morning, Kagurazaka-san might still be asleep. I should have called her later -- but well, let's hope for the best. Luckily she did picked up.

After some greeting, I immediately asked about the main reason :

"We are planning to have a party for the World light novel tournament, please tell me Muramasa-senpai's number or email address."

Kagurazaka-san answered:

「Muramasa-sensei doesn't have a cell phone nor email address .

"Eh?"

What age does that senpai of mine live in?

「By the way, she didn't submit her home telephone's number either.

"Chiba is so rural that they don't even have phone?"

「The people of Chiba will beat you up if you say that. It's just calling her home phone will rarely have any results…to tell the truth, most of the time we can't use phone to contact Muramasa-sensei.

"Then how did you contact her?"

「Either by going to her house directly. Or you could write a letter.

What age does that senpai of mine live in?

"…Okay, I will just call her home number then…worst case I will go to her house…."

「Ah, there is no need for that.

"Yes?"

「I will give you the phone to talk to her directly.

"Er, wait! Let me….."

Before I could finish, the phone became silent. Then another female voice came:

「Eh? Are you kidding me! How…how…no no no no….

「Alright, just listen…alright…Okay!

A few seconds of chatter --- then silence -- a few more seconds ---

「 ….Changing completed.

Another familiar voice came.

That was a female voice. She sounded panicked.

I swallowed:

"…. Muramasa-senpai?"

「Yes! Yes sir!

"Why are you using…formal language?"

「Because…because you suddenly ambushed me.

Did I catch her off guard?

"I never thought that you were at Kagurazaka-san's place. Are you two discussing the next novel?"

「Eh? No, no, we didn't do that! Nothing at all!

Looked like she didn't want to tell me. In that case I shouldn't ask any further.

"Well, senpai, the truth is --- " *Alright, now isn't the time to chicken out* "I planned to make a party for the world light novel tournament. If possible, will you come?"

「-------------------------------

She sounded surprised. Muramasa-senpai didn't reply for a long time.

"…No? Um, right, I asked so suddenly -- sorry."

「I'll come!

Before I could finish, Muramasa-senpai interrupted me.

"Wah?"

「How could I not come! Such a rare chance, you invited me -- I will come even it that is the last thing I can do!

"Eh…you don't have to go that far…then you will come? I…er …."

「Idiot…

Muramasa-senpai barely managed to continue:

「Even if I was rejected, my feelings for you won't change..

"-----------"

That simple sentence touched the deepest part of my heart.

"Really…. You introduced so much about yourself, yet you know nothing about me."

Senjyu Muramasa.

Real name unknown, an author who is still going to school.

She has two novels that had been made into anime, with sales exceeding 14,000,000.

No interest in anything else. Only writing novels for her own self. Her dream is to write 'the best light novel in the world'. But as soon as something changed, her passion would burst out.

She likes me. She likes my novel. She is my senior, but she is younger than me.

"I really don't know. We have only met about three times before."

「*That's right. But I got the feeling that you two already knew each other for a long time…*

A bit later, Muramasa-senpai coughed twice and said with a gentle tone:

「Then, I will repeat myself --

「Please take care of me, kouhai.

"Me too. Please take care of me - senpai."

I don't know what her story is.

But right now, this much is fine.

Two days later, the day we held the party for the world light novel tournament. I had prepared everything at my kitchen.

It is now noon, around the time we decided to gather. Everyone should be here shortly. Of course, this time we had Sagiri -Eromanga-sensei's approval to hold the party..

「I need to save Izumi-sensei's face.

Although she said that, I could tell she was excited.

It was a surprise -- but as long as you don't ask her to meet someone face to face, Sagiri wasn't the type who had no interest in others. That's why she could took part in that live video.

As long as Sagiri/Eromanga-sensei is happy, this party could be considered a success.

"Everything in general is OK…as expected of mother, this kitchen is really well-equipped."

In order to cheer her up, I also prepared something else. Right now, it's better to keep that a secret.

"Today….there will be me, Sagiri, Elf, Muramasa-senpai, Shidou-sensei."

I prepared the living room and counted on my fingers.

Elf lived right next door, she should be the first one here. But considering that she didn't, there is a good chance that she will be late. She is the type who either arrives very soon or very late.

What a lazy girl. She is an author!

"Muramasa-senpai lived too far away…she is probably still on the way."

Elf told me that Muramasa-senpai lived in Chiba.

By the way, when I asked Elf how did she know that, she answered "I could tell from her uniform." Looked like she memorized the entire country's uniform into her brain.

Really amazing. As expected of a romance-genre author, the princess who always caught me off guard.

"Eromanga-sensei is right up stair…then that left Shidou-sensei. "

Who will that person be? From this party's suggestion, that person must be the type who enjoys events.

When I was thinking ---

Ding dong

Someone is here.

"Coming ~~ ♪"

I tried to make my voice friendly and opened the door. In front of me was ---

"Good afternoon."

A young man that I don't recognize.

He looked older than me…probably a university student. He had a long and tea-like hair, but he looked like a serious type. On his body was a light color sweater jacket.

"You are …."

"I'm Shidou Kuminitsu. Is this Izumi Masamune-sensei's house? "

"Ah, yes. It's me. I'm Izumi Masamune ---"

"Ah, please to meet you, Izumi-sensei."

"Please to meet you too ---"

Wow, what a humble man.

Saying this might be a bit rude, but that was my first impression with him. Hah, recently I only meet with weirdoes, so I had already prepare myself…

"Please take care of me, Shidou-sensei."

"…Ahaha, how about get rid of that 「sensei?"

He smiled wryly.

"…Okay."

…I understood. Even I don't really like to be called Izumi-sensei by others.

Of course there were expectations, but most of the time I'd like to go with 「san.

"Then let's both get rid of that 「sensei."

"Sure."

"Please come in. Well, no one is here yet."

"Sorry to intrude."

He removed his shoes and carefully placed them down in front of the entrance. Just like Elf, looked like he was well-taught.

I followed him to the living room. On the way, he asked:

"About how should we called each other, is Izumi-senpai appropriate?"

"Well, I find it a bit strange that someone older than me is calling me 「senpai ."

Although I called Muramasa-senpai like that, but since she felt like an 「elder sister I don't feel anything strange.

"How about Izumi-san then?"

"You can called me by my name, it's fine. There is no need to be so formal."

"Calling by name is a bit…how about we just talk like now?"

We arrived at the living room during our talk.

"Please take a sit."

"Thank you, Izumi-kun."

In the end he called me that. From the sofa, he coughed and asked, a little embarrassed:

"My close friend always called me Shido. Izumi-kun, you can call me that if you like."

I stared at him and laughed:

"Got it. Please take care of me, Shido-kun

Yes. That's right. That is how a normal first meeting should be.

Compare to the one whose name began with 「Muor E… recently I rarely had any normal meeting without a fight.

Both Elf and Muramasa-senpai still took a long time, and Eromanga-sensei simply said 'called me if you have something to eat'. They don't know how to co-operate at all.

Without any other ways, I sat there and drank tea with Shido-kun.

"Shido-kun, why did you decided to hold this party?"

"It's simply that I just made my debut and don't know many people."

Shido-kun's experience began with a story submitted to the Amateur contest, and made it until the final stage. Then he found an editor, made his debut. He was studying at a university while writing until the third book, when he had a new idea.

While my - Izumi Masamune's was different. I got a reward from an Amateur contest then made my debut. I don't know whether it is a good or a bad thing, but I knew a lot of people in this industry.

Like the senior who gave me the reward, the one who also won the same reward with me…a lot.

Thinking back, those people were all better than me. Not to mention that I'm not really an active type, so I didn't manage to get close to anyone.

"I think this is a good chance. Everyone took part in this tournament is all new author, so our age should be mostly the same. I wanted to know Izumi-kun better."

"I'm agree. It's good to know more people in our industry. By the way, there are only five people in this party, which is me, Shido-kun, Elf, Muramasa-senpai and Eromanga-sensei, right?"

"Yes."

"There are two more participants that tournament, can't they come?"

Didn't he invite them? Hearing that, Shido-kun sadly lowered his eyes:

"I did invite them -- but they refused. They gave up on becoming an author…."

"Ah…"

This is normal. Even I was almost forced to give up too.

I wasn't the only one who bet my life as an author into this World light novel tournament. In some way, I was the one who cut off their career.

Still…"

"I see! Then it can't be help."

I tried to laugh. It's useless to feel sad now -- in fact, doing that would be an insult to people who tried their best like them.

"Yeah, it can't be help."

Maybe he realized my intention, Shido-kun tried to pass this topic.

"Anyway, I wanted to meet with more authors who close to my age. Izumi-kun, is there anyone today could be friend with us?"

"….There is….but to be friend with them is another matter."

They are all weirdo, after all. Should I let a new author like him meet them?

"Um, if I make new friends I will introduce them to you."

…Good. Maybe he will help me make new friends. Due to the fact that I worried about my identify and didn't dare to talk about this at school, right now, aside from Tomoe I had no one else to talk about light novels.

When we were talking ---

Ding Dong The doorbell rang.

"Um, let's see who just arrived."

I stood up. On the way outside, a quick glanced at the clock told me that a lot of time had passed. In other words, whoever arrived now counted as very late.

"Those famous novelist didn't know anything about arriving on time."

They should learn from Shido-kun.

I whined and open the door.

Outside was …

Two beautiful girls were head-butting in front of me.

"Masamune-kun, sorry I'm late."

"This is all her fault! I did nothing wrong!"

The girl in kimono was Senjyu Muramasa-senpai.

Next to her was an idiot - Yamada Elf in a yukata. I had heard of her plan like this before….

Blond hair with yukata normally wasn't a good combination… but….in this case…

Cute girls got such a huge advantage.

Although this scene looked a bit unreal, I tried to ask:

"Ah, you two came together?"

"Yes! I had to go to the station to get her! We had a lot to talk about, and we planned to go buy a present together ---"

Somehow, these two had become this close.

"Then I found out that aside from the money for ticket, she didn't carry a single cent more! We have to take a detour to the bank, it's so tiring!"

"It can't be helped. Although you can put it in wallet just in case , I have never used a credit card since I was born."

Muramasa-senpai suddenly explained.

Just like our first meeting, if she didn't say anything people might think that she was an airhead. Yet her pressure nearly made me suffocate when she was my enemy.

After meeting a few time, she became noticeably weaker. Like a boss in Super Robot War.

While lead them to the living room, I said:

"Muramasa-senpai, you are so careful when writing, making each of your words prefect, yet you don't know how to withdraw cash in the real life?"

Hearing that, Muramasa-senpai embarrassed, said:

"…Knowledge in books and real life are two different things. I knew next to nothing about them."

It's incurable. Looks like the civilized world has left her behind.

Elf's added lecture was even worse:

"Return to the civilized world, you Neanderthal."

"I…I know how to use computer…a bit."

Probably to read web novels. Well, of course she need to know a bit.

"Alright alright, you are good. Really, the bank was so crowd, yet you choose the moment we began to line up to write a novel… do you have any idea how long we had to wait? I will never get into a line with you again."

Followed by two noisy teenagers, I returned to the living room. Shido-kun stood up and bowed toward two girls who were younger than him.

"Sorry for troubling you."

"Hm, sorry for keeping you waiting."

Elf acted like a yakuza boss on a meeting with his minion. On the other hand, Muramasa-senpai took another look and asked:

"Who is this?"

"One of the author took part in the World light novel tournament, Shidou Kuminitsu-sensei." I gave a simple answer.

"Was there anyone with that name?"

"Yes there was a novel like that. You see, a guy at the baker shop who is a healing-type writer…"[1]

"Don't know."

…Again. You really….always like that with anything that doesn't get your interest.

"Then aside from Eromanga-sensei, everyone is here. Then in the meantime, let's process with the introduction ---"

"Before that, we need to decide our seats!"

Elf interrupted me and forcefully pulled my hand:

"I want to sit next to Masamune ~~ ♪"

Pop Suddenly, Muramasa-senpai's temple popped.

"What….Yama-something-sensei, you are so shameless."

"You! How dare you still forget my name! Don't you remember who taught you how to use an ATM?"

"What is an ATM?"

"The machine to withdraw cast at the baaaaaaaank!!! Aaaarhh! You are so troublesome!"

The most troublesome was the fact she acted that way naturally, without trying.

"Anyway, I will not give this position to anyone!"

"Then I will take the other side! Can I, Masamune-kun?"

"P, please don't be so close to me, I'm embarrassed!"

"Hey! Why are you only embarrassed with Muramasa? I'm more beautiful than her!"

Thus two beautiful girls tucked me in the center ---

….Damn, I'm going to faint.

I had no idea what were they thinking, it was getting more chaotic. Not to mention that Muramasa-sensei was too close, my heart was racing non-stop.

Suddenly ----

Bang bang bang bang bang

The ceiling banger "Knock it oooooooooooffffffffff !!!!!" roared in the house.

A few minutes later ---

I held the tablet with Eromanga-sensei inside and sat down at the sofa. Next to me was Shido-kun, who was restless. Elf and Muramasa-senpai sat down on another sofa.

「That's good.

After took care of the seating, Eromanga-sensei nodded (via the screen).

Let me explained. After that ceiling banger, I rushed to the second floor.

After Eromanga-sensei gave me an ear full, I received the order 「change the seating immediately and run back with the tablet of Eromanga-sensei in hand.

"Ah…haha…that…."

Having seen everything from the beginning, Shido-kun timidly asked:

"Just now…what was that noise? Was it…related to Eromanga-sensei?"

「It was a poltergeist

"Eh…but…."

「I said it was a poltergeist

"…Okay."

He acted like he already understood. I should hide the fact that Eromanga-sensei is my little sister. Only me and Elf knew this secret.

"Don't…allow…"

After this incident, Muramasa-senpai probably had guessed something. But she didn't talk with me about it. Based on her personality, there is no need to ask her to keep it a secret…but to be safe, I might need to talk with her soon.

"Still, Izumi-kun…is really popular."

Shido-kun looked at me, a hint of a smile in his eyes.

Hm, it's nothing like that.

Just now…it wasn't anything good.

*Bang bang bang*The ceiling shook again.

「Ha? What are you saying? There is nothing good about it.

Then a machine-like voice came out of the tablet in my chest:

「Because Izumi-sensei has someone he likes, isn't that right?

"Ah…right."

「Ha? What is with your weak reaction? Are you making fun of me?

…. Eromanga-sensei is so scary…

「Aside from the one you like, you don't feel anything from anyone, right?

"Yes."

Bang

「Louder!

"Yes sir! I felt nothing!"

So scary!

Seeing my conversation with my little sister, Shido-kun asked Elf:

"What is with them? Both of them are….male, right?"

"The situation is a bit complicated."

What are you saying…You might make Shido-kun think that I'm a homo.

During this time, Muramasa-senpai had begun writing again without a care about the world.

Since I was unable to stand Eromanga-sensei's pressure anymore, I put the tablet down and said:

"I'll go and prepare some food! Everyone should introduce themselves!"

Ignoring the call 「Don't you dare run away from the tablet, I escaped to the kitchen. Elf followed me.

"Let me help."

"…If you are here , what would you do if Eromanga-sensei gets angry again?"

"It's fine."

Elf waved her hand, put her mouth close to my ear and whispered:

"Anyway…are you jealous because I was talking to another boy ? Don't worry ♪, I only said a few words for the sake of politeness, there is no need to be alarmed."

"What?"

What are you talking about? Elf took a step back and looked around the kitchen.

"Hum ~ you are preparing the dinner? It look quite simple."

"I just going to make some fried food. I'm fine on my own, go back to your seat."

I put the apron and triangular scarf on.

Elf thought for a moment and said:

"Alright then. But this kitchen is really well-equipped, even better than mine. Next time let me borrow it."

"As long as you make Sagiri's portion too."

She didn't look promising, but Elf's cooking really is good.

"I knew you would say that. Ah, by the way, here is the present from me and Muramasa."

"This is….."

"Did we get it right? Don't take it out now, make sure to give your little sister a surprise."

"Thank you! This is it! This is exactly it!"

"Alright alright, you are welcome! Really, it's so easy to make you happy."

Somehow Elf smiled wryly before leaving the kitchen.

You guys wanted to know what did Elf bought? Just wait and see. It was time to bring out what I prepared.

Elf suggested a party for the world light novel tournament, but we can make it a summer party.

Although I was a bit interested in those shop.

In other words, we prepared food normally sold at those summer festival shop - everyone together (of course we couldn't prepare the firework) - but at least we had a part of summer's atmosphere. This way, even if she didn't leave her room, Sagiri could have some memories for summer.

That was what I intended.

We pushed everything on the table aside and put Japanese food on it.

Yakisoba, ikayaki, takoyaki [2], grilled corn, sweet apple, chocolate banana….

The same food was also sent in to *the locked room.*

"Wow! Amazing! They look delicious!"

"Truly! Did Masamune-kun make them all by yourself?"

"Although all of them are common people's food, but…pass."

「Really…..more..

Everyone gave their comments.

Even Eromanga-sensei temporary forgot her disguise.

Anyway, it's good as long as she had fun.

"Masamune! As the host, say something!"

If Elf said so then I don't have a reason to refuse. Let's start with a greeting.

"Everyone, thank you very much for taking part in this party for the world light novel tournament."

Clap clap clap. Everyone clapped their hands.

"Although we might become competitors in the future, I hope we could be friends. Anyway, I'll be short so the food doesn't get cold - so now - Cheer!"

"Cheer!"

*Cling*We knocked our glasses together.

"Fortune amidst misfortune, my novel was chosen to be published too. Although I lost in the tournament, I planned to fix that later. Hope everyone will read it."

"Masamune-kun, congratulation on your victory. I really want to see the published version."

"You won thanks to my training! Kneel and thanks me!"

「Sorry everyone, I wasn't able to go. Izumi-sensei also prepared the same food for me, allowed me to participate via Skype.

You are right upstairs though.

Although there were some difficulties at first, but now it looked fine. Everyone was eating happily. The atmosphere is friendly.

Different people have different ways of thinking, but in my opinions, we are companions, not enemy. In this industry, we might even be called comrades.

Of course - while small - there existed a chance that sometime two individual's interest contradicted each other's. My showdown with Elf. With Muramasa-senpai -- those were examples.

But at the same time, the more an author tried to outdo another, the more people liked the light novel. Thus, the more people became fans.

So there was no need to be jealous of famous novelists - the thought "I don't want to improve my relationship with my enemy" only hurts yourself.

That's why I truly hope everyone could try harder together.

Well, as humans, there will be a time when we hate or become jealous of someone else. Even I was no different. I once thought " The novelist whose pen name similar to mine should die" or "I will not accept Muramasa."

"It's time for self-introductions."

Following my suggestion, Shido-kun raised his hand:

"Let me go first. The rest of you looked familiar with each other. "

No one opposed it.

Shido-kun coughed twice and calmly said:

"My name is Shidou Kuminitsu, I have made my debut two years ago. Now, I'm attending a university while writing, mostly focus on gourmet novel."

"Since your debut, your hobby is Convenient Store Switch, loli and romance play. But you sent a gourmet novel to the world light novel tournament - why did you do that?"

I asked. Since he was so humble, thus even if he told me to ask freely, I couldn't. Now I just played it safe.

"I liked food since I was small, especially sweet. every time I went to the convenience store, I bought a lot…I always hope one day I could make delicious biscuits and chocolate pies that kid would love."

Everyone had their own dreams, but few managed to follow it till the end - most of us changed our dreams based on our ability and real life conditions.

Like someone wanted to become a manga artist, yet became a romance writer.

Some wanted to become a professional baseball player, yet became a baseball office supplies maker.

Some wanted to become an author, but became an editor instead.

But still, some did reach their dreams.

"Ahaha, so at first I wanted to make sweets, then somehow I became a novelist who wrote a gourmet novel."

People like Shido-kun are very common.

"Now, my dream is to one day join forces with a businessman and sell my work together with my sweets."

I think that dream is great. In order to do that, he needs to write something that could be made into anime. Although our dreams were different, we had to go through the same route.

"If you do, I will definitely buy some."

"Thank you."

Embarrassed, Shido-kun smiled proudly and gave me a small paper package. Inside was a small cake.

"This is my present."

"Could it be…you did it yourself?"

"Yes. It might not taste good with hot food, but please give it a try."

"Wow, thank you."

Elf once said that 'romance genre authors are good at cooking'. Looks like she was right.

If I wanted to change to a romance genre, should I practice making cake? Well, maybe in my free time.

"Alright, next is my turn!"

Next to me, Elf jumped up and down. Looked like she couldn't wait anymore. She stood up and made a strange pose:

"I'm Yamada Elf! I'm the beautiful female novelist whose book is about to be made into an anime!"

"Muramasa-senpai is more famous than you though."

"You there! Shut up!"

Elf pointed at me and proudly raised her chest:

"My dream is - to write the Ultimate Light novel - to conquer this world."

She said something like a final boss in a kid's manga.

"…Yamada Elf-sensei's personality is exactly the same on the Internet."

"Right right, I agree."

I whispered with Shido-kun, who was left speechless.

By the way, Muramasa-senpai was eating takoyaki while writing, she didn't listen to any of that.

「Let me ask you a more realistic question. How are you going to conquer the world with light novels?

Who cares!? Eromanga-sensei, why do you have to ask that?

"As long as my books are sold all over the world, it will become true! As soon as my name is praised all over the world, that means I conquered the world."

「If I remember correctly, X *beep* has sold 500,000,000 copies, yet it didn't conquer the world.

"Mwwu...."

That book has a lot of fans in the world, but it hardly could be called 'conquer the world'.

「Besides, if you wanted to conquer the world with a book, at least you need to beat "that" - the current strongest light novel.

"What do you mean, "that"? The one with predicted battle point 600,000,000?"

「Based on Elf-chan's way of talking, "that" got 388,000,000,000 battle point.

"Three hundreds and eighty eight billions? Not counted in ten thousands anymore?"

Elf was totally surprised, so much that she switched from Arabian number to kanji reading.

"Anyway, what Eromanga-sensei is saying is that "that" is the strongest book in the world. Although I won't say its name, it made its way into the Guinness book. If you insult "that", your life might be in danger. Is that right?"

「Yes yes.

In fact, just calling it a light novel is a risk. As expected of the most famous book in the world.

"If you mean "that" then it truly could conquer the world."

Wow, Shido-kun, you could follow with this nonsense.

"….Kuh…Mwu…mwu….."

Although Elf was shaken when faced with "the strongest book in the world", but she quickly recovered and boasted:

"Then my first target is the best in Japan!"

Well, this time it's more believable.

"Right now, my goal is to defeat the 「Hachiraijin [3]」 of light novel. "

"Is that a title of Dengeki Bunko?"

Hearing my question, Elf looked at the distance and answered:

"They called them the reincarnation of Japan's eight great thunder gods, each of them is an Arch novelist with sales exceed 10,000,000."

She spoke nonsense again.

Still, somehow Muramasa-senpai had stopped and listened.

"Eh, the people you just said, are their novels good?"

Looks like she wanted to hear more. She wanted to find the novel for herself after all.

"What are you saying? You are one of the Hachiraijin too."

"Eh?"

Muramasa-senpai paled. Elf proudly added:

"From now on, you should called yourself as one of them. How about 「Kuruizaku Kuroikazuchi no Muramasa[4]」?"

"………"

Muramasa-senpai looked at Elf, dumbfounded.

"Hey Elf. Senpai, don't be angry. There is no need to pay attention to that weird nickname."

"It's not weird…really, you have no taste in art. Such a cool name."

"Cool…?"

I highly doubt that anyone would be brave enough to introduce themselves with that name.

I shook my head. At the same time, Elf turned to Muramasa-senpai:

"Alright, now it's your turn."

"?"

"I said it's your turn to introduce yourselves."

Hearing that, Muramasa-senpai recovered. She slowly stood up, made a pose like she was in a play and introduced:

"One of the Hachiraijin , Kuruizaku Kuroikazuchi no Muramasa , forward."

"You really used that?"

Seeing my surprise, senpai sternly replied:

"Yes. Although that name sounded strange, but after thinking carefully, there is something cool about it."

"Sure. It's really cool when senpai rightfully said it just now."

So I need to be able to do that in order to become a best-selling author like Elf and Muramasa-senpai….need to think about it carefully.

"But please, senpai, introduce yourselves normally. You see, saying your name is 'The raging destruction black thunder, Muramasa' during the first meeting doesn't sound right, okay?"

"Doesn't sound right?"

"Yes."

But somehow I got the feeling that Muramasa-senpai couldn't make any better introduction.

"In that case…."

She coughed and re-introduced herself:

"Senjyu Muramasa. Masamune-kun's friend."

Author - novelist or anything - she didn't say. Those title are meaningless to her. The only side explanation she gave made my heart race.

I smiled and asked:

"Senpai, what's your dream?"

"To write 「the best light novel in the world to read."

She looked directly into my eyes and answered.

………..A moment of silence.

Bang bang bang The ceiling shook again.

"Wah!?"

Why did Sagiri get angry again?

Elf turned toward the tablet in my chest, said:

"Eromanga-sensei, don't worry. There is no need to be that alert around her."

「What do you mean, Elf-chan?

"Hey Elf, don't give Eromanga-sensei any strange ideas."

"Just listen. Okay, now I will give you my experience to write a romance novel."

"What a fast change of subject!"

Muramasa-senpai glared at Elf.

Of course she would, considered that the subject suddenly switched to her.

Elf shouted "Shut up", ignored Muramasa-senpai and raised a finger:

"Clang clang."

She made a noise like a quiz show:

"Question: In a romance novel, for the main heroine, there is one thing that is stronger than the little sister's moe -- what is that? Masamune-kun, please!"

"There is nothing like that!"

"Brr! Wrong!"

Elf muttered "Die, siscon" while glaring at me.

"Hint: This is something that Muramasa has, but Yamada Elf will never able to get in her life. What is that?"

"Breast?"

"Wrong!"

Wow, what a loud roar.

On the other hand, Muramasa-senpai blushed, she hid her chest with her hand and looked at me:

"…I knew it, you don't know how to restrict yourselves."

Feeling embarrassed, I looked away.

"Hint: This is something that could greatly boost a girl's charm."

"Hint: Most of the time, this is something that only appeared when the novel is almost finished."

"Hint: Most of the time, after a character gets this, their chance to appear again is greatly reduced."

"Hint: Due to all of those reason, this is very hard to use correctly…."

"-- Wait a second. There is no need to go further. Japanese is a race full of kindness and compassionate for the weak, so this might count as something good, but in the end this is still something for sub-characters. The main heroine like me is the center of the story."

Elf gave the tablet a meaningful glance.

「 ---------------

Eromanga-sensei didn't say anything, while I simply didn't understand a single bit.

Muramasa-senpai broke into a laughter, coldly replied:

"You dare to say that? It's not a good thing to mix up between fiction and reality. Don't. Also, you see that you made a big mistake?"

"What mistake? There is no mistake."

It's truly hard to interrupt girls when they talked. Both me and Shido-kun were completely helpless.

"Hm, so what about you, Yamada Elf? Everything you said is just an empty boast."

That was the first time Muramasa-senpai got Elf's name right.

"You asked what about me? Although just sitting around and making plans isn't my style, but I couldn't understand you. This guy -- unlike a lover, you seemed to want something else."

"….Are you purposely trying to confuse me?"

"Maybe I did go overboard. But I don't just not like it anymore, it's annoying me."

Elf and Muramasa-senpai glared fiercely, spark flying everywhere. The atmosphere is almost waiting to explode.

"Wah wah, it's my turn!"

I quickly jumped in between them.

Thankfully I picked the right time. Everyone's eyes focused on me, the previous atmosphere completely disappeared.

Really…how do girls get angry due to trivial matters?

"My name is Izumi Masamune, author, high school student. My masterpiece is *The Silver Wolf of Reincarnation*. Now I'm working on my newest story *The cutest little sister in the world.* "

I took a deep breath and looked at Eromanga-sensei.

"I want to see this book become famous, to see it is made into anime, then watch it together with my little sister - this is *our dream* ."

Everything became silent.

Then, starting from Muramasa-senpai, everyone clapped their hands. Everyone told us about themselves, about their dream.

I kept going with this flow.

"Last is Eromanga-sensei's turn."

「….Eh?

I turned the tablet toward everyone, said:

"Please, Eromanga-sensei."

Everyone looked at her and began to persuade:

"Please, Eromanga-sensei."

"…Eromanga-sensei….I'm interest in you…."

"Eromanga-sensei --- hurry up! Let's see your face!"

Eromanga-sensei! Eromanga-sensei! Eromanga-sensei!

Hearing that name non-stop, Eromanga-sensei's reaction was ---

「I, I I I I don't know anyone with that name!

Still the same answer as always.

「……….Uuuuuuu.

Even though she still had her mask on, her shell was gone.

"Alright alright. Don't call Eromanga-sensei Eromanga-sensei anymore! Each time you called Eromanga-sensei Eromanga-sensei, Eromanga-sensei is so embarrassed! Isn't that right, Eromanga-sensei?"

「Ni, Nii-sa, Izumi-sensei said it more than anyone…

Heh!

「An, anyway, I don't know…anyone with that name. Sagiri repeated again: Also…my dream….Izumi-sensei just said….eto….

She hesitated. Because she wasn't used to talking with others, Sagiri became silent.

「That…that…

But no one said anything. We believed Sagiri will say something next.

A few minutes later ---

Elf tried to ask:

"…Eromanga-sensei, you must have a dream too right? What is that?"

In the screen, Eromanga-sensei paused. Her head lowered.

I couldn't guess what was my little sister's expression was like behind that mask.

She slowly told us her dream:

「….Become….the bride….of the one I like…

This must be the biggest dream here among us.

That night, after everything was finished and everyone had returned home. I was inside *the locked room*, in front of my little sister.

"Did you….have fun today."

"….A bit."

Sagiri muttered. She didn't look at me

"I see….I had a lot of fun. Everyone gathering together, chatting, eating…it was fun. The joy of those noises….now everyone has gone…the house is so quiet…."

"……….."

Sagiri quietly looked at me. Feeling embarrassed, I quickly stood up.

"Alright, take a look at this."

Let's get to the main topic then.

"…What…is that?"

I took it out and said:

"Cotton candy maker machine. Elf and Muramasa-senpai bought it together. You need that to get the feeling of a Summer Festival, right?"

"Cotton candy…wah…."

Sagiri slightly leaned over to take a better look.

Heh, that got her interest!

"Why didn't you take it out earlier?"

"I wanted to surprise you. Hehe, could my plan have succeeded ?"

"…There is…no…such thing…."

Sagiri pouted and turned away.

I smiled wryly and started the machine to get her attention.

"It's better to make cotton candy yourself. Look!"

I opened the cover and put sugar inside.

Then waited.

Finally --

"Here."

"Wow"

Cotton candy appeared like a cloud in the middle of the machine.

"Wow….amazing."

Sagiri put her hands on the floor as support to take a better look inside. Could it be that she is wondering if that would give her an idea?

"Then I use a chopstick to gather them - like this."

I put a chopstick inside and spun it around. Little by little, cotton gathered.

"…………"

Suddenly, I noticed Sagiri watching me. I smiled and told her:

"Want to try?"

"Yes."

This is how she should act, like a child her age. I happily gave her the chopstick.

"Here…like this?"

She grunted while moving the chopstick.

"You need to spin it too -- yes, like that…"

"Uuu…tired…."

"Okay, give it to me."

More and more cotton candy gathered. And the empty feeling inside me slowly disappeared.

We looked like real siblings.

Finally we finished. It wasn't much, but it's done.

"Wow, we are done."

"…Haha, take a look."

Although I carefully prepared the food before, but she probably preferred sweets.

Sagiri took a bite of the cotton candy.

"...It's sweet."

A charming smiled appeared.

"Really? It's good then."

Seeing this, I probably had the same expression on my face.

"…Here…Nii-san."

"Yes?"

"…Eat…"

She raised the cotton candy toward me.

"…Can I?"

"Yes."

She nodded.

"Then…."

I took a bite like she said. The sweet spread in my mouth.

"So…sweet…"

"I know, right?"

"…Um."

Time passed in silence. I only met Sagiri for a short time before my parents passed away, this might be the first time we spent so much time together.

Finally, we finished eating. Sagiri slowly said:

"Nii-san…are you lonely?"

"Huh?"

"……..A few days ago…when you went to the editors department…since you came back…you felt strange."

"…Ah."

Yes. Recently, even I felt that something is strange.

Although my body felt normal…that feeling was still here.

"…Lonely? Because you can't go home?"

"Maybe it's right."

I acknowledged my feeling. Maybe I was able to do that thanks to the gentle atmosphere.

"…I…can't let Sagiri take care of the house alone."

This is my secret. My shameful secret that I had never told anyone.

"Mom - I meant my real mother…she had a traffic accident after she left me to take care of the house alone -- she never came back. After that…I was always afraid of this feeling…"

I'm scared of stay at home alone. I'm scared of loneliness.

But I never told anybody about it. I hid it, suppressed it. I didn't want to cause more trouble for my father.

But...

Masamune. You are not going to be alone again. We have a new family.

I bet that father already knew.

"So when I heard that I got a new family member, I was very happy."

"I see…this…is your second time."

"…Yeah."

Mother, father, mom…I couldn't tell them "Welcome back" anymore.

"So….even when I didn't realize it…it got worse…I think that it didn't show itself because you were at home with me."

But the moment I left the house, it showed.

I'm deathly afraid to be separate from my family. I feared that I might not be able to see them again -- that thought sometimes still appears in my mind. It's so painful.

"I'm so useless. I'm already a high school student, yet…."

Suddenly, something warm touches my head.

When I realized it was Sagiri's hand, my heart skipped a beat.

"It's fine."

She gently patted my head.

"You know... I can't go outside my room anymore. I've become scared of so many things... I have no idea what I should do... And yet, I don't have any problems with just you, so that mustn't be true."

"…I….when I said 'You don’t have to force yourself to go to school', something that sounds like I was saying for your sake..."

Should I tell Sagiri this?

When Megumi asked me about Sagiri - my answer came from the bottom of my heart.

It wasn't a lie. But….

"…But I'm afraid. I'm afraid of being alone, so I need you to be by my side."

…But it was only half of the reason. The other half is very embarrassing, I couldn't say it out loud.

"…….."

Sagiri didn't say anything, she just stroked my head.

Time passed in silence…

"…I understand now. Nii-san, you want to have a family. Since your real mother was gone, your new mother, your father too… you were very, very lonely."

"…Yes."

I agreed. This must be the truth.

I raised my head and firmly said:

"I want to be a family."

"I…never considered you my family…I don't want to be your little sister."

Sagiri still repeated her words from before.

But this time, she laughed:

"But it can't be helped. I will be your little sister for the time being."

"Thank you."

I wanted to cry.

I'm so happy. Really, really happy. Yet my heart hurt.

"By the way…Sagiri…is your dream getting any closer?"

She dropped herself on the bed and looked up ---

"It's getting further and further away."

That was what she said.

著:山田エルフ

04 ラノベ作家ステータス表

Pen Neme

獅童国光

Data

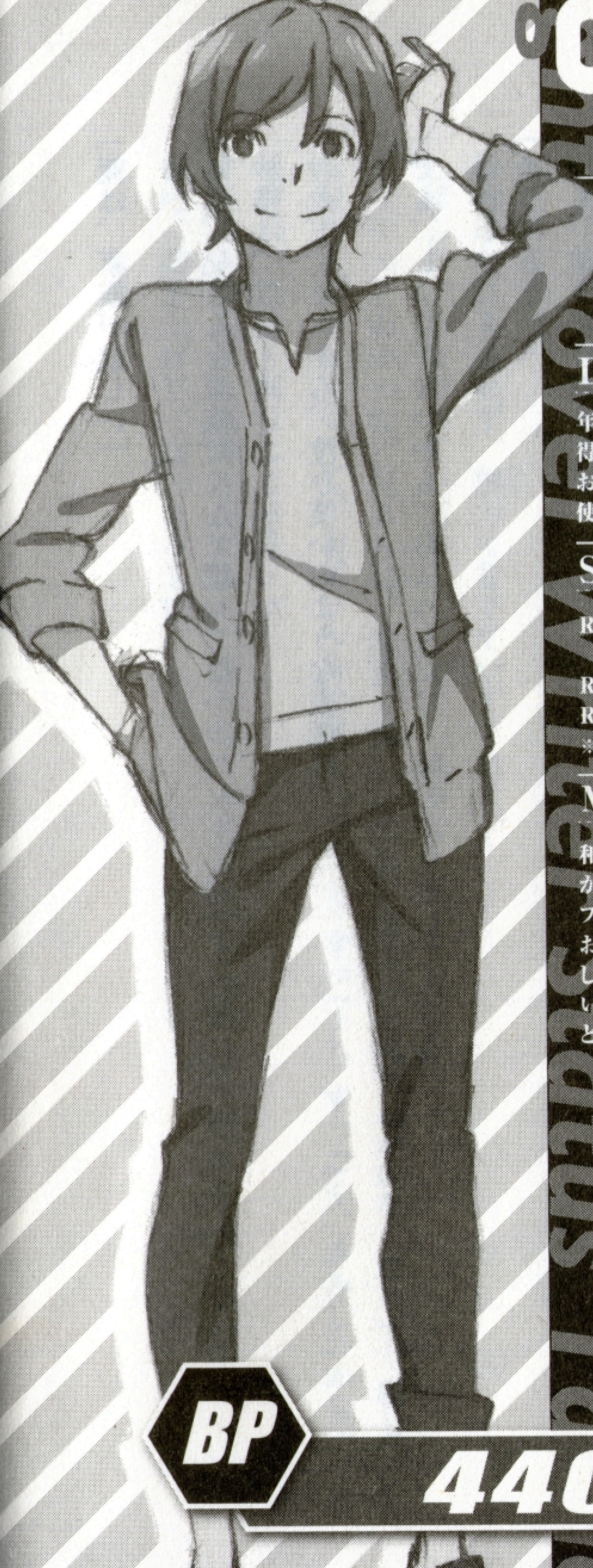
年齢:20歳　血液型:A型
得意ジャンル:青春小説　少女小説
お菓子をモチーフにしたもの
使用機種:sigmarionIII

Skill

Rank:?　普通自動車第一種運転免許（AT限定）
Rank:?　製菓衛生師
Rank:?　秘書検定準1級
※その他、家庭科系の資格・検定多数。

Memo

和泉マサムネの後輩作家よ。
かわいい作風のせいで女の子だと思っているファンが多いようだけど、残念!　男だから!
お菓子作りの腕前は、まっ、それなりってとこかしら。
いい、マサムネ!　手作りのお菓子を食べたいときは、こいつじゃなくてわたしに頼むのよ!



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Chapter 2

第二章

During the summer, I visited an island at the south side of the country.

In front of me was the wide beach and the vast sea. The beautiful blue waves sparkled in the sun light. Under this light, all of my sunburns disappeared.

This is how a summer is supposed to be!

I turned around. Behind me was a mountain and a forest without any signs of human habitation. No hotel, no fastfood restaurants, no nothing. All of this had a wild nature which made people feel relaxed.

Yes – it was like we were in a fantasy land.

“How’s my island? Beautiful, right?”

A familiar voice spoke to me. I turned and saw a blonde girl with beautiful eyes in a very-dangerous-looking bikini.

“You, you…this…this is…!”

“Ehehehe ~~”

It was Yamada Elf – the famous novelist and my next door neighbor. She spread her hands wide and boasted:

“Your heart must be racing upon seeing my bikini – Izumi Masamune!”

“You really are too much!”

It’s not that I don’t like girl’s bikinis, I just had no interest in them.

But with this bikini….really, I don’t know where I should be looking.

Her pure snow-white skin glistened, and you could just catch a brief glimpse of some red underwear….how could she have such confidence? She’s almost flat!

But…ugh..even I don’t want to admit, but….she’s really cute.

Eromanga-sensei would praise her non-stop if she were here.

“I, I, my heart isn't racing at all.”

I turned away to try and hide the blush spreading across my face.

“Ahaha…Kufufufu…..I see…trying to be a tsundere….”

Elf said like she could read my mind, then she ran up to, and stopped right in front of me.

“Remember to thank me properly – it’s an honor to be allowed to visit the location of my novel.”

I averted my eyes away from Elf’s breasts and looked directly at her:

"Your novel's…location?"

"Yes. My masterpiece *The Expurgatory flame of Dark Elf*'s setting is based on this island!"

"Ah…no wonder it felt so familiar."

In her debut, she once made a description of an elf's forest.

The weather, the air, the scene – if everything was taken from here, then the time I spent here could be called *a Holy Land pilgrimage*

Then ---

Why am I here, at the Elf's forest, or should I say Elf's island?

"Ehhhhhhh ~~~ you guys have never gone to Taiwan before? Ahahaha! That's so lame ~! Unless you have attended an event for novelists at Taiwan, you're only a second-rate writer ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~"

Everything began with those words from Elf. That was a few days ago.

After the world light novel tournament party ended, we gathered around and ate desert. Elf made a comment when I brought her shaved ice:

"The shaved ice that I ate in Taiwan was much better than this!"

Before I could ask if she wanted to start a fight or not, Shido-kun defused the atmosphere:

"Taiwan huh. I've heard that famous romance-genre novelist are often invited. I've never been there before. What about you, Muramasa-san?"

"Me neither…probably." Muramasa-senpai whispered.

As a famous novelist, there is no way she didn't get an invitation before. I bet she was invited but forgot about it. Or maybe she even forgot that she rejected them.

"Well, you didn't even go to the signing event in Kanto, of course you wouldn't go aboard."

"You're right, I won't. It's such a waste of time. I'd rather be writing."

She only cared about writing, nothing else mattered.

"What about you, Masamune?"

"I've heard about it, but both Eromanga-sensei and I have never been there."

Especially in the recent years, Japanese novelists and illustrators sometimes were invited to attend events in Taiwan. A few years ago, there was a light novel author who visited there, and met two beautiful girls who cosplayed as characters from his own work and he took a picture with both of them holding his hand. That certainly caused a lot of jealousy from others.

Everyone saw that picture,and the Internet exploded.

---- *Is this for real? Not a photoshopped picture, is it?*

---- *Taiwan sugeeeeeeeeeeee!!!!!!!!*

---- *Me too me too! I want to go to Taiwan too!*

From that moment forward, an invitation to Taiwan became a symbol of status among Japanese light novel writers. Rumors spread quickly among the amateur light novel writers.

Like Taiwan is filled to the brim with beautiful girls!

Like in Taiwan, everyone scrambled to kneel down and lick the feet Japanese light novel writers!

Like Taiwan is the place for light novel writers to have fun – etc …

Of course, all of them sounded too strange to be true.

"But I hope that someday I can go there together with Eromanga-sensei."

Although I knew that there was a good chance that someone else would be there too – but this is a chance to go abroad with my little sister! What a wonderful idea!

"…….."

Hearing my dream, somehow Shido-kun looked as pale as a ghost.

…Not good. He totally thinks I'm gay. He must be thinking that I wanted to go aboard alone with Mr. Eromanga-sensei.

Well judging from the way Eromanga-Sensei and I spoke to each other during the party, a misunderstanding is unavoidable.

I can't leave it like this. I must solve it somehow. Yet at the same time there's no way I could explain everything to him.

When I was hesitating, after learning that Elf was the only one who had visited Taiwan, Elf said the previous line ---

"It can't be helped then. I never thought that I'd be the only who had visited Taiwan. Taiwan is really beautiful ~. The weather is warm, the watermelon juice is wonderful. There are really good dumplings and other tasty food. I learned a lot from them."

"Based on what you said, you went there for no reason other than eating."

「Yet after eating so much you are still flat chested. Poor girl.

Both Eromanga-Sensei and I (via the tablet) teased her. Elf roared:

“What the hell? I was thinking of making Taiwanese food for you guys!”

「Ah, in that case I want it.

Eromanga-sensei corrected her words.

“Hm! Just wait until my mood gets better! Ah, now that we’ve mentioned Taiwan, I want to go. Since we are having summer break, both Muramasa and Masamune have finished their manuscripts, everyone want to go?”

“No no, I don’t think that you should go. Elf-sensei, don’t you still have a lot of work to do?”

「Your novel is going to be made into an anime right? And made into games too.

Both Eromanga-Sensei and I voiced our concerns.

“It’s ~ fine ~ ♪ There is still a lot of time ♪ I can work whenever I want ~!”

She’s definitely the type who never gets anything done.

“What about you, Muramasa?”

“My time is better spent writing than coming with you. I’m not going.”

Directly to the point. Well, she’s always like that.

“……So are you saying that you are going to spend your entire life at home? What about you, Kuminitsu? You’re about twenty, it’ d be great if you could be our guardian on this trip.”

“I’d come if everyone got together.”

Shido-kun calmly answered before looking at me.

Hearing everyone’s opinions, I waved my hands in rejection.

“No matter what anyone says, Taiwan is impossible. I don’t have a passport.”

“Ha? Are you for real?”

“Of course. I have never gone abroad in my life.”

"Ehhhh!? ~~~~ I can't believe it! No wonder you can only speak Japanese! You are an author, what would you do if your book is going to be sold abroad? Don’t you plan to translate it yourself?"

"No no no, I think that you are the only author that actually does that. Everyone else just asks a professional translator."

"But you still need to learn! Don’t you care about what foreign readers think about your story?"

Learn? Learn my ass. Look at you, you can’t even do basic math .

But she did translate her own story to a foreign language. She's amazing.

"Well, forget it. You can't go aboard at this rate. Let's go somewhere else. Three days and two nights, an island to the south of the country. How about that?"

"Yeah yeah, whatever. I'm not going."

"Eh? Why? You’re going to go with me! Don’t you feel that it’s an honor!?"

"Nope, I don’t."

" --- Ah, you mean you want the two of us to go alone? I understand your intentions, but…."

"No! Why is it that you sometimes refuse to understand human languages? I will not…leave my little sister at home alone. I’m not going to go, okay? End of story."

"…….Who would think that that was your reason. Any comments, Eromanga-sensei?"

「.........I….I…have no comments….but I feel it’s gross…

Eromanga-sensei returned to her usual way of speaking. Although it hurt me a bit, I continued:

"I don’t care whether it's gross or not. I will die of loneliness if I'm unable to see my little sister for three days."

"You’re not worried about what will happen to your little sister, but instead care what will happen to you?"

"Yup."

I raised my head and chest, and answered.

"This siscon dares to say these things in such a courageous manner…But, are you really not going? A trip with beautiful girls to an island -- I think this is a chance to improve your writing skills ."

"What do you mean?"

How can a trip improve my writing skills?

"You are going to write a novel with a lot of beautiful girls, aren't you? Then this trip will give you a lot of real life experience."

"!"

"You can't miss a chance to get more reference material! This is my advice for you as a romance-genre novelist!"

"Mwu…."

Although I knew that Elf had just made an excuse to ask me to go, but her reasoning sounded solid…

Hearing my groan, Elf opened her arms wide and continued her momentum:

"You can go immediately without a reservation. The beach, the weather, everything is a precious setting for light novel! You can even use that for an anime too!"

"But…what about work…"

"Let's call this 「a trip to co-operate and get reference material! This is something absolutely necessary for your dream!"

"You are right…kuh…..but ….I don’t want to be separated from my little sister…."

Seeing that I was slowly being convinced, Elf pointed at Muramasa-senpai's chest and added:

"If you go, you could see Muramasa and myself in a bikini."

"Hey, you idiot over there! I never said that I will go."

Ignoring Muramasa-senpai's protest, Elf kept saying:

"I will definitely convince her, what are you still afraid of? Mwu -- still not totally convinced? Alright then, here is my trump card."

"Both of us will wear erotic bikinis for you!"

"Why, why, why did you include me too!"

Muramasa-senpai blushed. She clearly didn’t have a poker face.

"Is this true?" *2

"Wait, what is with your reaction? I'm not wearing them! I will definitely not wear them!"

Senpai hugged her chest and kept shaking her head.

"In order to make this trip happen, I will make something that you can wear!"

"Uuuuuuuuuu~~~~~~~~~~"

Truthfully, I really wanted to see. Maybe not Elf's, but senpai's bikini is another matter. If I managed to get a picture, this would be the best of the best reference material for Eromanga-sensei.

But…but….!

I breathed out, calmed my breathing and answered:

"Thank you for your invitation, but maybe next time."

At the core, I'm truly afraid of being separated from my little sister. Not to mention that if I go, Eromanga-sensei will feel that she was abandoned.

I can only go on a trip when Sagiri can leave of her room. That much is fine.

"----------"

Hearing my answer, Elf's eyes widened:

"I got it…but give it another thought, okay? I'll be waiting for your answer until tomorrow."

That night, after everyone had gone home, inside *the locked room* --

"….Nii-san, you should go."

"What?"

"I can stay at home alone…I will take care of our home properly ."

"But….."

"You want to go, don't you? Everyone goes together, eating together, making friends, not to mention getting reference material , seeing bikinis -- an island in the south sounds good. You're thinking that, aren't you?"

"Yes…I am."

It is. Sagiri truly understands me best.

"But I can't leave you alone just to go."

I'm very afraid. I'm scared….of loneliness…

"It's fine. Don't worry."

Considering that I held up inside my editor department for several days. Even though I did return later, the fact remained that I went out for three days straight. So Sagiri herself should be fine.

"The problem lies with me."

Sagiri smiled slightly "I know."

Of course. I just said that “I will die of loneliness if I'm unable to see my little sister for three days".

"We’ve rarely seen each other for a year…yet…“

"But we are still living together."

Even if we couldn’t meet, we still lived under the same roof.

Even if no one greeted me with a "Welcome back", I could still say "I'm home" every time I returned.

I'm not totally alone.

"Ehe…alright alright, I will call you every night…you should go ."

Hearing her gentle voice made me so embarrassed that I wanted to die.

"….Are you my mother…?"

This sounded like an adult comforting a child who is about to go away for the first time.

Although she said she would call me every nightwhich would help relieve me of my loneliness, but I felt embarrassed just thinking about it.In order to calm down, I changed the subject.

"…What about you?"

"?"

"…You…aren't you going to feel lonely too? You are going to be separated from me for three days."

"…Pfff."

She laughed. I rarely saw her like this.

"…I'm fine. But I'm worried about you, Nii-san."

"Ah, is that so?"

I turned away.

"Are you angry?"

"Nope."

I just don’t want her to see me blush.

"Its fine, you should go. You don’t have to worry that going will mean leaving me behind. I don’t feel that way."

"….Why are you thinkingof me so much?"

I secretly glanced at her. She gave me a very charming smile:

"Because I'm now drawing illustrations for *The cutest little sister in the world*."

"Izumi-sensei has finished the story – now it is my turn."

I see…it's about time.

Eromanga-sensei looked at me seriously, said:

"Since Izumi-sensei held up in the editorial department, I wanted to focus on working too. I will do my best -- so Izumi-sensei should try to get as many reference materials as possible. I think we both should work hard on our dream."

"….Sagiri."

Not only did she realize that I wanted to go, she even encouraged me to go, for our dream.

In that case - I have nothing else to say.

"…Got it. I will go."

"Um."

My little sister happily waved at me:

"Good luck on your trip, Nii-san."

I bet that when I returned with a souvenir --

Eromanga-sensei would be waiting with her best illustration.

She continued:

"…Actually, Elf-chan just called me…as payment for lending them Nii-san, they will co-operate with me -- for art…. Ahahahahahahaha….."

A perverted laugh rang out in the night.

Anyway, that was the reason ---

In the name of "a trip to co-operate and get reference material", I and Elf went on a three days two nights trip to an island in the south of our country.

I had noticed a bit of this before, but it seemed like Elf's family is insanely rich. Based on what she said, money was never a problem.

In other words, Elf's family was similar to mine. Of course I had no intention of asking her about such a private matter.

Anyway, when I and my neighbor arrived at the Haneda airport, we saw Shido-kun there, waiting for us.

"Good morning."

He waved his hands and greeted us.

"Good morning, Shido-kun."

"Morning."

By the way, today Elf only wore a simple miniskirt. But since she added a lot of frill, it doesn’t look much different from usual. On the other hand, I and Shido-kun wore a short shirt.

"Say, what do you guys think Muramasa will wear today?"

"I bet it's going to be a kimono again - there is a good chance she will."

Both Shido-kun and I agreed.

Aside from the light kimono for summer, we have never seen her in any other clothing. Yet she always looked comfortable in that, sometimes we wondered if she was an undead or not. That was why we felt that it's entirely possible that she would wear a kimono to a southern island.

"But Muramasa-senpai looked like she would not come no matter what, will she truly come?"

"I have taken care of that. After that party, Muramasa, Eromanga-sensei, and I met on skype and revealed our hands. I have spoken with Muramasa -- well, after this and that everything is fine."

Probably…Sagiri told Muramasa-senpai her true identify.

Recently, the number of people who know this secret kept increasing.

"Muramasa's condition requires your help, is that okay?"

"You should have told me sooner. I will do whatever I can."

"Don’t worry don’t worry, it's nothing big…."

I have a bad feeling.

Looks like…not only did Elf convince Muramasa-senpai, she also convinced Sagiri.

Although Sagiri agreed to let me go -- she still made some conditions.

…I couldn’t help but think back to her very pervert-expression.

As payment for lending them Nii-san, they will co-operate with me -- for art….

"So Eromanga-sensei made some conditions too?"

When I mentioned that, Elf looked like she recalled the details of those conditions and blushed.

"…You can say that. Although the conditions were a bit special, they were still within acceptable range."

I don’t know for certain, but I bet it's something perverted.

"No no, I don't care whether you like to run around naked or not. I meant that I couldn’t believe Muramasa-senpai accepted too. "

"She didn’t."

"What?"

"When Eromanga-sensei made those conditions, every single perverted one was aimed at me instead of Muramasa. So I said 「I will agree only if Muramasa agrees too! ."

"That's bad! That was a wrong move! You made a deal with the devil!"

Don’t underestimate Eromanga-sensei desire to see a perverted scene of her model! She will do anything to make you do your part of the deal.

"What should I do…how should I explain it to Muramasa-senpai…"

"Hm, it's all within my calculations."

Elf pointed at my face, and said:

"Didn’t you have a bet with her during the World light novel tournament? That the winner can order the loser to do anything, remember?"

"You wanted me to use that? You wanted me to tell Muramasa-senpai to follow Eromanga-sensei's orders? Especially pervert ones like 「Let me see your pantiesormake an erotic pose?"

"Yes."

"What kind of expression do you wantme to have when giving her an order like this? Besides, I already used it to tell her 「don't hinder our dream ."

"Is that so? But it doesn't look like she is going to do anything.

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes. Even if you didn't give that order, she will not hinder your dream again. I can tell that she is still looking forward to 「What kind of order will Masamune-kun give me . So cute, she trusted your personality so much -- now this is the right time to betray her ! No need to hold back, gave her an order as perverted as possible! "

"You are so excited when it comes to this. Then I will be blunt: don't you think it's a waste to use it on an order like that?"

Don't you remember a girl who told me to "do whatever I want" ? Looks like I need to tease you more.

"Since she said 「anything is fine, what about order like increase the number of orders you have to obey or become my meat-slave for the rest of your life?"

In Elf's novel *Dark Elf* there was something like that.

"Kuh…maybe I should try that?"

"She looked cold outside, but inside she liked it. It's going to be fine. Just go for it!"

"I see ~ she is going to like it huh."

"Yes, yes, she likes to be abused! Go, give that order!"

"By the way, how come senpai still hasn’t arrived? Should we go get her ----"

"…………I have been her for a while."

"!" * 2

The voice came from behind and startled both Elf and I.

We both froze and slowly turned our backs and saw Muramasa-senpai standing there, a dark aura visible around her.

"…………"

Oh damn oh damn…she looked like she was about to kill someone.

"Say…senpai…did you hear?"

"Yes…I like to be abused huh."

"I'm very sorry!"

I raised both of my hands and surrendered.

"We were just speaking nonsense! Please don’t try to stab me with your umbrella!"

By the way, today she had a white dress and was holding umbrella. But her eyes were so scary. In fact, the contrast made her even scarier! What terrifying killing intent.

"Hmm..forget it."

She coughed and returned her blade to the sheath -- no, returned her umbrella.

"Cough cough…aside from that…Masamune-kun, is there anything you would like to say?"

"Eh? Ah….?"

What? Should I apologize for thinking about those orders just now? Based on the expression she had…

"Senpai, your clothes …."

"Yes. Yes."

"---- Did Eromanga-sensei pick it for you?"

Suddenly, Senpai almost tripped on her own feet, but she quickly stood up right:

"Yes! Yes, that's right! Due to Eromanga-sensei's conditions, I have to wear one of the outfits she chose….but…you! You!"

"I think it suits you quite nicely."

Although it was a bit late, I voiced my opinion.

Since I'm not used to praising girls, I was a bit slow when I try to do it.

"You look great. Very cute."

"~~~~~~~"

She blushed, half from anger and half from embarrassment.

"You, you, hate!"

She yelled something unintelligible at me before turning around and ignored me.

…Elf-sensei, we said something bad just now…

I tried to convey this though through eye contact with Elf, but she glanced at me, coughed and asked:

"Masamune…is there anything you would like to tell me?"

"Nope. Hurry up and let's go!"

"Wait…wait! There must be! Look, look, clothes…wait -- look carefully! Why are you so cold hearted towardsme!"

Thus -- together with my friends, we boarded the plane, then a taxi, then a ship and finally arrived at the southern island.

If this were a novel of mine, then either something would happen on the way or someone would attack us. Of course reality wasn't like that, we arrived safety without trouble.

The sky was clear without any clouds. We were still in Japan, but the Kanto area wasn't as good as this.

We followed Elf and got off the ship. As soon as we left the harbor ---

"!"

A very eye-catching man was waving at us.

He had blonde hair, and blue eyes with a wide forehead, and a broad-looking body. Together with his simple, white shirt -- he looked like a tour guide - even more than a real one.

He looked like Legolas from 「Lord ** *** rings- a perfect handsome looking man.

"That…this…."

Clothes aside, just the forest behind him made him look like an elf. I wouldn’t have been surprised if he pulled an arrow out of nowhere.

"…I can't believe it…an elf's forest really exists…."

"No no, Muramasa-senpai…..this is…."

Even when I corrected her, I was unable to look away from Legolas.

Elf took a step forward and happily waved her hands at him:

"Aniki!"

"Aniki!?"

I yelled in surprise.

But…yes! I can tell that they are blood-related just from looking, but….

That man who looked like an elf is truly Elf's older brother?

No no, what am I thinking…

"Aniki -- is that Elf's older brother?"

"Yes, let me introduce ---"

Elf pointed at Legolas and said:

"My editor, as well as my elder brother, Chris."

"Please to meet you, everyone. I'm an editor for Fulldrive publishing, Yamada Chris. Thank you for coming."

His voice was calm and easy to hear. It was the same voice I heard on the phone before. Now that we have meet, I could see that he truly was an adult. Unlike his little sister, his stern expression scared me a bit.

Shido-kun turned to me, whispered:

"Is Elf-sensei's brother an editor?"

"Yes."

"….Is this his real name?"

"Who knows?"

When we were muttering, Chris-Legolas said with his unchanged expression:

"I apologize that I had to take part in your trip to co-operate and get reference materials without notifying you. But I couldn’t leave my little sister alone. Thus, I will remain at this island for the time being. Please remember that."

"You don’t have to be here, you know…Aniki, can you please stop acting so serious? All of them are my friends - no, my loyal servants."

*Knock!*In a smooth and quick action move, he hit Elf's head.

“~~~~~~”

With teary eyes, Elf hugged her head. Chris-aniki continued:

"I can't do that. Included Yamada-sensei, everyone here are novelists while I am an editor. We can't afford to mix up private and public matters."

In other words, just now he didn’t hit *his little sister* but hit *Yamada-sensei* because of a *public* matter.

Fulldrive publishing is so scary.

He…wasn't he the one who lead those black-suit, sunglasses-wearing guys who took Elf away? I should be careful around him.

"Eh…actually, while it’s called a trip to co-operate we are mostly here as your little sister's friends…and since it's a private activity too, you don’t have to be so formal."

Everyone agreed? A quick look at Shido-kun and Muramasa-senpai showed that both were nodding.

"…In that case, let's go with that."

Chris-san's face became a bit gentler:

"I'm glad that my little sister could find friends her age with the same hobby. Thank you very much…although she has some problems, please take care of her."

He used the words "same hobby", and not "collaboration". I could guess what he meant by that.

"Aniki---what are you saying -- it's embarrassing."

Elf blushed and interrupted. We couldn’t help but smile at this scene.

"Don’t worry! Just leave it to us!" - I tried to laugh loudly.

"Really….Masamune…forget it, let's go."

In order to take care of our luggage, we followed Chris to Elf's mansion which was near the beach, on a clean field of sand.

From the mainland, this place looked like a forest in a fantasy setting. People could even forget that theywere still in Japan.

On the way there, we chatted:

"Hey Elf. Is your pen name Yamada Elf your real name too?" Muramasa-senpai asked.

"Nope. I borrowed my brother's last name and added a bit."

In other words, there is no Yamada in Elf's real name. Looked like her family's situation is more complicated than I thought.

Now that I think about it, during the party Muramasa-senpai mostly spoke with me. Yet she is close enough to call her Elf instead of Yamada-sensei right now.

Eromanga-sensei. We're free anyway, want to play a game together?

I couldn't help but think back to when Elf became Sagiri's friend . It looked like forcing people to become one's friends might work too. Just look at Muramasa-senpai.

Unlike super perfect class rep Megumi, Elf really seemed like she was good at "handling problem children"

When I wasn't thinking, Muramasa-senpai asked Elf:

"So what is your real name?"

"Hmhnm, you want to know? Can't tell you that, it's a woman's secret…If you really want to know…."

"I will tell you" Chris interrupted "My little sister's real name is ---"

"Wwahhhhhhhhhh!! Don't say it! You're going to ruin my image of a mysterious beautiful girl!"

Elf cut Chris off in panic before he could say anything.

Although I want to know too, but if she doesn't want to let us know then we can't force it. Muramasa-senpai also gave up.

"Also…I don’t know your guy’s real names."

Since we are all novelists, we use pen name to address each other instead of our real names.

"My pen name is Shidou Kuminitsu. I only changed the writing from kanji, it’s my real name too."

"I see. Me too. What about you, Muramasa-senpai?"

I knew that Senjyu Muramasa is not her real name.

Hearing my question, Muramasa-senpai thought for a while and replied:

"…I don’t want to say it now. It's embarrassing."

"In that case it must be a cute name!"

At that time, we had arrived while chatting.

"This is my family's mansion! Everyone, make yourself at home! "

Although Elf said that, but -----

"……."

"……"

I and Shido-kun stared at the mansion in front of us, our eyes wide.

We had caught a glimpse of it when we were in the ship -- but now we can safety said that this mansion "belonged to someone who is super rich."

It was a big, white, open mansion. The front faced the beach and there were a row of seats. Some very interesting-looking cots stood near some trees.

Behind the mansion was a road which lead further into the forest.

Now is still early, the sun light shone brightly. This is the perfect weather to go swimming at sea.

"…Let's take a picture."

"Alright."

I put my luggage down and went around to take some pictures.

Shido-kun did that as well. Muramasa-senpai followed us without a camera or cellphone in her hand, she just followed our actions with a seriously gaze.

Sometime she squatted down and picked up some sand, touched a tree, played with sea shell –she looked like a child who was playing, who was trying to remember everything with all of her sense.

At that time, behind us, Elf laughed happily and put her hands on her mouth as a speaker and shouted:

"Muramasa ~ Masamune is looking at your panties~!"

"Ya!"

Senpai immediately covered her behind with her hands and turned to me:

"Did you see it?"

"No, I didn't."

Actually, I did see a bit.

Really…this senpai was too careless.

We arrived at the mansion's entrance and put our luggage down and prepared to choose rooms.

Elf put her hands on her hips and acted like a leader:

"There are a lot of rooms, so we can each have our own -- but since we can't co-operate without living together, I decide that we will put two peoplein a room. I with Masamune, Shido with Muramasa, okay! Good, let's do it!"

"Like hell!"

Why don’t we split it based on male and female!

"This is my mansion! Do you have any problems with that?"

"Yes!"

Muramasa-senpai raised her voice. She picked up her umbrella and prepared to stab:

"Split seriously or death. Take your pick."

"….You look like you really are going to do that…Of course I was joking, how could I let girls and boys sleep together. You, and I, Musamune and Shido, is that okay?"

That’s okay. But…

"Eh? I'm going to live in the same room with Izumi-kun?"

Shido-kun's voiced sounded involuntary. I quickly asked:

"….Eh…Shido-kun…you don’t want to share a room with me?

At least I wanted to know the reason. He looked at me with an apologetic expression.

"………….Living with someone who’s gay is a bit….."

"I'm not gay!"

I knew it! He had a ridiculous misunderstanding!

"But…with Eromanga-sensei …."

"I don’t have that kind of relationship with Eromanga-sensei! Both he and I are not gay! Please believe me!"

Ughh….explaining this is hard….

After that, I tried my best to explain while still hiding my little sister's identity.

When our luggage was safely put in our room, we returned to the dining room and grabbed a quick meal, which was prepared by the mansion's staff and contained a lot of high class ingredients.

Nice rooms, good food…this was much better than I expected. I felt so embarrassed.

"I will personally prepare tonight's dinner, just wait for it!

Elf spoke while gave me a charming look.

I knew that her cooking was super. Although I was full, hearing that was enough to make me want to eat more.

If Elf ever had someone she liked, I bet she could immediately take control her boyfriend's family through their stomachs easily.

After we finished resting in the living room ---

"Let's go to the beach -- it's for reference material!"

Everyone decided to go swimming. We returned to our room to change.

"Izumi-kun, you go ahead. I will go after sending some work-related email."

"Got it."

I went to the beach alone --

"How does my island look?"

Which led to the scene at the beginning.

Now, on the sand beach, Elf stood in front of me in a revealing bikini.

Saying this might sound pathetic…but now my heard was in chaos. Normally, I treated my prideful neighboras a child who was asking to be indulged, but now….

Shido-kun, Muramasa-senpai, anyone is fine, please hurry!

"Er…where is Muramasa-senpai?"

"Hm? Hmmmm…..she…can't come here…for now.." Elf replied , a hint of anxiety in her tone.

"And shouldn’t Shido-kun be with you?"

"He said he needed to take care of some work-related email."

"I see - plot successful!"

"Yes?"

"It's nothing!"

Elf put her hands on her hips and grinned.

"Ehehe…in other words, we are totally alone right now."

"…Yes, we are."

…Why…why…Elf…right now…is it because she was wearing a revealing bikini? This atmosphere was a bit….

"It can't be help! Let's play before everyone arrives!"

"Yeah yeah…."

Elf happily pulled me to the sea.

The soft feeling I felt made my body froze…I felt like I had become a dog who was being given a bath by its owner.

"Hey, what are you embarrassed for? This is reference material for the romance genre, you need to be serious about it! Do you want your dream with your little sister to become true or not?"

"Ah, right, right, reference material…."

My mind seemed to clear a bit…let's see…a date on a beach…

"So that's why you were acting like my lover. You should have said so sooner, I was so surprised!"

"…Um."

Elf was stunned for a second, but she immediately smiled:

"Yes! I wanted to get reference material too, so act like my boyfriend!"

"Boyfriend?"

"You don’t want to?"

Elf grabbed my hand, she looked at me without blinking, her eyes begging.

"Kuh…."

Something wasn’t right. Right now Elf -- looked dangerous.

"It's not like…that…"

"I see! Time for our first reference material! A part of any date on the beach ---"

Elf pulled me to a big umbrella, put a nylon mat on the sand -and then lied down face up.

"Ha…huh…."

She even purposely took a deep breath before slowly opening her bikini's button.

"Okay Masamune! Go ahead and help put sunscreen on me!"

"Wahwahwahwah!"

No no no no no! It's very very dangerous! I almost saw everything!

I quickly covered my eyes and lectured her as best as I could:

"What the heck are you doing?! Stop it! Stop! Cover yourself! Quickly, you shameless stripper!"

"Don’t, don’t badmouth my chastity! I, I, I'm embarrassed too! I will not allow anyone else to do this, but it's for a reference material! We have to do it!"

"What kind of romance-genre novel has a heroine show her bare breast like that?"

"There is! I will write something like that!"

In other words your character will be like you and will show their bare breasts in a heartbeat.

"Stop stalling, hurry up and put it on me! I bet that sooner or later you will have to write a scene like this too!"

"I will definitely not! Please, at least lay down!"

At least if she lied face down I could do that -- no matter how embarrassed I was. Hopefully.

"Oh my -- Pathetic, Izumi Masamune."

Elf teased me, but she did turn to lie face down.

"Phew."

I'm saved…

No no, that must be her limit too. Look, her face was bright red.

"Alright…face down. Is good…okay."

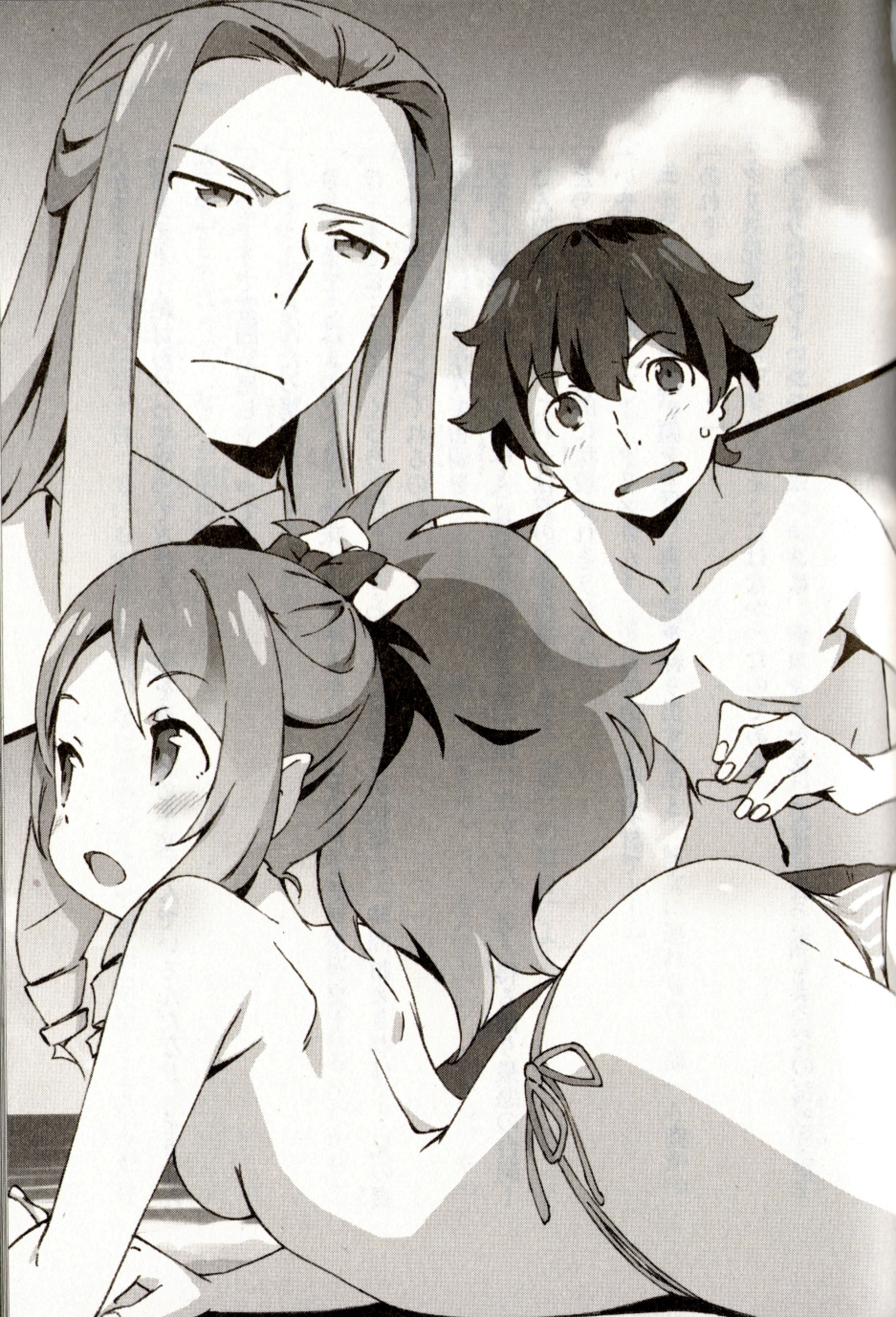
Now that I think about it, if she asked me to do that from the beginning, I would, without any doubt, refuse. Thus she made that request in order to fool me into this situation. Still, it was too late to think about that now.

"….Bwu….."

I picked up the sunscreen bottle and put that sticky oil on my hand.

Then ---

My eyes met Elf's elder brother's eyes.



"…………………." <= me, both hands covered in a sticky substance, a twisted expression on my face.

"…………………" Chris-aniki looked at me with a stern, serious expression.

Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh why is my life so complicated! It's as bad as the time Eromanga-sensei almost stripped on live video….

Why…is he here….

"……….."

Chris-aniki's eyes lowered.

Below, his little sister lied face down, her bare breasts revealed.

"What's up? Hurry! Hurry and put that sunscreen withan aphrodisiac effect on me."

I'm done for! She picked right now to say something straight from an eroge….

Chris-aniki kept looking at us, his expression remained unchanged.

From my frozen hand, some drop of lotion fell on Elf's back.

"Ya ~~ ♥ Even if trash like you defiles my body, you will not take my heart ♥"

"You said that on purpose didn’t you?! You tried to tease me huh? Stop messing around!"

She clearly actively made this perverted atmosphere! There was nothing good about this! It felt like I was being tortured!

Now, my heart still felt like it was being crushed, but for a different reason than before.

"You, you promised? Ahh ~ ♥ If I can withstand this pleasure for an hour, you will not touch my brother's virginity?"

"What the heck are you saying!"

And right in front of her elder brother too. Now the misunderstanding that I'm gay has skyrocketed. Is there thing any worse than this?

Even in my chaotic state, I have to agree that she had a very good imagination. Just one line was enough to totally destroy my social standing.

"No! No, it's not like that, Chris-aniki! We are taking reference----"

I pulled my eyes away from Elf and tried to explain…

"Huh? Where is he?"

Chris-aniki had disappeared. Maybe he fled because he saw something too cruel.

Anyway, next time we meet, looks like I will need to explain a lot to him.

After putting sunscreen on Elf (just her back), she pulled me to the sea. I still can't see Shido-kun or Muramasa-senpai anywhere.

"What happened…."

"Don’t ~ worry ~ about it~. Next is the second piece of reference material."

"The second? What are you planning to do?"

"Lovers playing in water. You see, it’s like 「Ah ~ it's cold ♥ ~ really ~ you want to play huh ♥ ."

"………………You want us to do that?"

"Yes! Ehehe, do you feel honored? Even if it's only for a few minutes, you became my boyfriend."

"…….It's too embarrassing, please skip it."

"It's not! Come on, let's play!"

"Say, what exactly will this prove?"

"You can see your lover when she is having fun!"

I felt that whatever two lovers did together would be lovely-dovey, but everything she said turned out to be erotic.

"Ummm….."

"Still not convinced? It can't be helped then - let's go with number three "Teaching a beautiful girl how to swim". This reference material has a special aspect: even if the male does not have any strange thoughts, even if he totally focus on teaching, he still has to touch the girl's body and skin. He has to direct her hands, her legs while touching her, which makes love bloom.Love &Touch - see? Let's do it!"

Elf patted my shoulders and pulled me into the sea again.

I replied:

"I can't swim."

"What the hell!? My perfect plan!"

What part of it is perfect?

"So how about you teach me how to swim?"

"I can't swim either."

"So you have no right to lecture me."

"…..By the way, it seemed like Muramasa and Shido couldn't swim either."

".....So why did we come to a beach?"

"................"

"................"

We both fell silent.

.............Is our trip going to end here?

"Anyway, there are still a lot of fun to be had aside from swimming! Okay, Masamune! Fire yourself up - let's keep doing skin ship for our reference material!"

"I will not let you do whatever you want!"

A voice interrupted Elf.

"!?"

I turned to the source. Elf looked like she had already expected that.

"Hum, you are faster than I expected."

That was ---

"Yamada Elf…your evil plan end here!"

Muramasa-senpai stood there in a far more revealing bikini than Elf's.

No, no, maybe that bikini was the same as Elf's, but because her body was more developed it felt different. She looked like she had just taken a bath, there was water on her body.

…..Senpai, so that's how you looked after wearing that bikini.

"Senpai…that…."

"Wow…oa……"

Muramasa-senpai moaned like she was about to die.

I still didn't understand anything.

"You totally rejected the idea of wearing this….who have thought that in the end you did wear this erotic bikini…."

Senpai, could it be that you are a pervert too?

I thought that you were different…so you are the same as Elf.

"No, no, it's not like that! Masamune-kun, listen to me! There is the reason for this!"

She squatted down on the spot. But my eyes were unable to move away from her pure white skin.

"…And that is?"

"She! She is the culprit!"

Still squatting down, senpai pointed at Elf.

"What did you do?"

"When Muramasa took a bath, I hid all of her luggage and left her only that bikini."

What a devil.

"You even took the towel….bikini like this…how could I go outside….*hic*……"

Looked like she is easily embarrassed as much as Sagiri. Just this was enough for her to panic.

Although it's regrettable, I turned away.

"I got it. But why did Elf do that?"

"She wanted to take advantages of the time when she is alone with Masamune-kun to …"

"With me?"

I asked, but no answered came. Elf cut Muramasa-senpai off with one single sentence:

"Ew? Muramasa-chan, is this okay to say it?"

"Wh..what?"

Senpai's whole body trembled. Elf grinned like a thief:

"The reason you took part in this trip - want me to say it out loud?"

"You…lowlife!"

Muramasa-senpai gritted her teeth in frustration.

But it looked like there was a reason for her, someone who normally doesn't care about anything, to go on this trip. And she doesn't want me to know that reason.

Muramasa's condition requires your help, is that okay?

Is there any connection with what Elf said earlier?

Anyway, I couldn't leave her like that.

I went to the umbrella to get my coat and tried to give it to her without looking.

"Senpai…please use this."

"…Sorry."

After putting on the coat, Muramasa-senpai calmed down.

The first time they meet, she totally dominated Elf. But now Elf was the one who teased her.

AfterMuramasa-senpai and I decided to wait for Shido-kun to arrive and play - we pulled Elf (clearly involuntary) back to the mansion. We sat on the chair faced the sea and enjoyed our drinks.

…It's not a bad free day….

When I was feeling comfortable, senpai said, sounded afraid:

"…. Masamune-kun."

"?"

"The reason I went on this trip…."

Eh? I thought she didn't want to tell me?

"You --- " She paused, then continued: "I wanted to see your novel."

"My novel?"

Hearing my question, Elf answered in Muramasa-senpai's place:

"Yes. There must be a lot of unfinished oneson your computer, right?"

"Of course."

All novelist had something similar. Like rejected manuscript, or a manuscript that for some reason that can't be published… Everyone got that. All of them were stored carefully.

We can't easily kill our children this way. Maybe someday we could even take another look at them.

I was the same. Even those web novels during my black history were stored carefully. Of course there is no way I could let anyone see them.

"I have a lot. Like the before-edit manuscript of *Silver Wolf*, my manuscript before I made my debut…."

"I want to read them!"

Suddenly she leaped forward, like a child who saw a toy in a present and wanted to play immediately. I took a few steps back. Elf added:

"Izumi Masamune's unpublished story - you can see for yourself. This is the condition she required to join this trip. Masamune, are you with me?"

"No problem. But I can't bring everything out." I answered.

"I can show you those story that for some reasons can't be published. But my rejected stories are another matter. My editor told me that 「It's bad, no one will buy it before rejecting them."

"I want to read your story. Anything is fine."

"Kuh…"

No good. My face was so hot…

"No, no mean no! I'm embarrassed!"

"…I see…"

Senpai seemed down. That expression, combined with her revealing bikini, and the thin coat made me felt bad. That was the first time I felt this way with someone other than my little sister.

"….I can print my unpublished novel…and…." I added " Although I can't let you see my rejected manuscript…but if you like….I can…"

"!"

Her reaction was out of my expectation. Eyes widened, hands supporting her body, she leaned forward:

"Really?"

"Ah?"

Her eyes made my heart raced. I looked away, answered:

"Like the after story of *Silver Wolf*, I could write it quickly for you."

"*Silver Wolf*! After story? Of course I want that!"

Her eyes were sparking. She smiled brightly. That made me both happy and nostalgic.

Although we have never met face to face -- I had also felt that way when I spoke with *that person*

"Got it. Please give me a few days while I write it."

"Um."

Senpai smiled happily. Normally she was so cold, yet now she looked like a child. Instead of asking which was her real self, maybe they both were.

Life wasn’t like a story. Not many people can clearly separate different sides of themselves. It's normal to have different side like that.

"But is that okay? Although it sounded strange coming from me , but you are writing a novel too, right?"

"It's fine. You see, I'm writing a romance-genre novel. That is important, but if I don’t write fighting-genre novels for a long time , my writing skills will be reduced."

"That would be bad. Your fighting novels are my life force."

I rarely received praise like that, thus I felt really embarrassed.

"It's fine, don’t worry. As long as you’re happy."

To tell the truth, I still felt attached to those characters from *Silver Wolf*

Maybe it was strange to write more about a story right after it ended. But after listening to Muramasa-senpai's attempts to crush me, I changed my mind.

As an author, I could see my characters whenever I wanted, unlike my readers. They could only see them while reading.

And they will have to say goodbye when putting the book down.

But doing that means the lonely feelings will resurface. They will have to be separated right after meeting again.

Like in *The Sacred Blacksmith*[5] or *Armed Librarians: The Book of Bantorra*[6], readers need to read one every few months. Not only light novels, daily anime or Blu-ray is all the same. The better a story is, the worse you felt when it ended.

Although I couldn’t say it clearly…but to me, that was what an ending means.

So, despite that reality is unrealistic…but…sometimes…meeting with my fans and seeing my characters again…feel good. That was what I thought.

"Alright, then what should I write."

When I was thinking for an idea, Elf seemed like she thought of something funny and laughed:

"Hay Masamune, why are you looked so happy? This can't be printed, you can't let other readers read it. It's something you’d write for free."

"Haha, what are you saying, Elf? Don’t you remember what I did before my debut?"

"Ah, I see."

Elf looked like she understood.

"You are the type who writes because you want to. Working for free is fine with you."

"Yes! I love it! I love to do it for free!"

If my parents were alive, I planned to stop working as an author after entering high school - but I will continue to write.

Not to earn money, just because I wanted to - write a story and read it every day.

Of course, becoming a professional novelist with my own editor and illustrations is a good thing. But I prefer to be free without anyone restricting me. I like it so much that I felt sorry for people who never write anything.

"This time, I will only write it for one reader, Muramasa-senpai. " I grinned and pointed at her "This is a rare chance, allow me to write a really good after story."

"..........Um."

Maybe because of sun light, Muramasa-senpai's face reddened.

After that, Shido-kun arrived (he looked like he exchanged some strange hand signals with Elf) and everyone began to play.

Based on what Elf said, this time we got lots of reference materials. From beach volleyball, water melon crushing[7], drinking fruit juice and shaved ice Elf made.

Although sometimes Muramasa-senpai focused on writing so much that she missed out on a lot, but time ended up flying. It was now sunset. On the way back, Elf happily said:

"Ah ~ I like it so much! My body is so sweaty! Let's take a bath! Ehehe ~ this is an open bath house! Let's go, Muramasa!"

"I'm going to take a bath in my room. I want to write something quickly."

"Eh? Bathing together is the time for girl talk! This is reference material too!"

"I refused…god knows what would happened if I take a bath with you."

"It's going to be fine! At worse I would only touch you a bit! Just a little bit! Okay? Please?"

"No, you sound suspicious…"

Elf put a hand on Muramasa-senpai's shoulder and tried to convince her.

An open bath house…I can see the sunset and the beach while letting myself enjoy the hot water…not to mention the erotic girl talk from nearby.

No no…I really, really want this.

"Ma, Masamune-kun! You're thinking something pervert, aren't you?"

"Ah, Masamune! I will say it before hand, you won't be able to secretly look at us at the bath house! I had made anti-peeping preparation, the fence is separated on both sides and will make a noise whenever anyone touches it! Although the sound is small, you can't make it disappear."

So -- I returned to my room, made preparations and went to the open bath house. It would be a waste if the other side finished too soon.

Since Shido-kun said he had something to do, I went out first.

From the beach and here…it sounded like he was making excuse. Could it be that he doesn't want to go with me?

"…Does he still think I'm gay?"

I really didn't dare to ask.

I entered the bath house, past the changing area and entered the large bath room.

The wash bath room and the large bath room were separated. I needed to wash my body before entering that bath. I quickly did that and entered the bath room.

"Wah…"

The white stream was everywhere.

Although there was a fence separating this side and the woman's side, the water was from the same source. The scene was nice, with open air and sea.

The sun was going down, the light was beautiful. It looked like I could still enjoy the night after this.

Although I had lots of other thoughts in my mind, but now seeing that, I only wanted to enjoy this bath.

Blub blub

"Ah….it's so good."

My body became lighter. Now I truly felt good to be born Japanese.

This is the first time I went on a trip without my classmates. I'm so excited. It was so good. I was right to come here.

It would be better if Sagiri could come too.

Oh, wait, I'm not looking forward to taking a bath with her! Really…!

…Elf and Muramasa-senpai must be taking a bath right now too. But why can't I hear anything? I tried to draw closer to the fence.

At that time --

"…Huh? There is…someone else?"

Behind the stream was someone!

Eh, eh eh? Could it be, could it be that? Elf and Muramasa-senpai mistakenly came here instead?

---- Of course not. That was Chris-aniki. He is totally naked.

"…….!!!!"

Yamada Chris -- Elf's blood older brother and her editor.

His upper body was above the water, he nodded at me without saying anything.

His skin was as white as his little sister's. His body was thin, and yet seemed strong. His collar bone looked charming -- and why am I describing a naked man so carefully?

"Eh..ah…."

I panicked, didn’t know what to say. In the end, I said:

"Pleased to meet you…what a coincidence."

"Um."

"…………..."

"……………"

What, what next!? This atmosphere is so uncomfortable!

Because Chris-aniki always had a stern-looking expression…not to mention what happened earlier today…I felt very troubled.

"….."

Right now, we were taking a bath, side by side.

Wait, side by side?

"*Glup*."

Since when did he appear next to me? Scary….

"…….."

I thought he would say something, but I was wrong. He just calmly looked at the sky while enjoying the bath.

His face without a hint of worry was quite rare. He could become a really good actor.

But what kind of film had a handsome blonde hair blue eyes man taking an open bath on a southern island?

However --- if I were him…

What would an elder brother do if he saw his little sister nearly nude and played with some sticky lotion (with a boy)?

If I were him, that boy would be reduced to a bloodly stain already.

…The truth is…

"Look like you get along --- with my little sister quite well."

"Eh…that…"

Now what? How should I answer?

Example

「I don't really get along with your little sister, you know?.

「You don't get along well with her, yet you put lotion on her? Looks like you wanna become prey to my bow, huh?

Crap. He is gonna kill me for sure.

Example

「Err well, you see, I get along with your little sister very well.

「That does not mean I can let you off the hook for putting lotion and doing shit with her. Looks like you wanna become prey to my bow, huh?

Crap….whatever I say, I will become his prey.

Because of his expressions, that was my impression of Chris-aniki.

"…Er, well, I think we get along just fine."

Without any other choices, I picked something in the middle.

Chris-aniki seriously looked at me, then he spoke in a very low tone:

"As long as you take responsible, it's fine."

"Eh?"

What? What did he just say?

"Eh…just now…what did you just say?"

“Izumi-sensei --- no, Izumi Masamune-kun ----“

For the first time since we meet, he put both of his hands on my shoulders.

“Eh…?”

Then he spoke in his usual low, charming tone:

“Marriage.”

A proposal rang in the open bath house.

"…………"

To tell the truth, I was so surprised that my whole body was stunned, unable to say anything.

At the same time, there was the *clang clang* sound of something hitting the floor.

I tried to turn my head around and saw Shido-kun with a towel around his hips, his face twisted in horror.

“I…I’m sorry!”

*Rush rush*Shido-kun fled immediately.

"……………..Crap."

Crap. Now he saw a man propose to me. Now the misunderstandings that I'm gay is gonna get worse.

No no. Now is not the time for this!

Although Shido-kun's misunderstanding is very serious, the gay elf in front of me is much, much worse!

"Eh…eh…"

I should have run away already, but I need to double-check something. Depending on his answer, I will decide to slam my head into his chin or not. Even if running away turned out to be impossible, I will defend my chastity till my last breath.

"….Just now…you said…."

Chris-aniki repeated, his tone still remained serious.

"Marriage – to my little sister."

"To your little sister!?"

You should have said so sooner……Oh my god….I thought I was about to die….or some ultra secret was going to revealed….

"With my little sister. What else did you have in mind?"

"It's nothing. And a ma, ma, marriage with Elf, you mean…?"

"Marriage to my little sister" – those words also carry a lot of weigh.

Chris-aniki pulled his hands back from my shoulders, and said:

"Of course I don't mean that you should marry right now. Both you and my little sister are still too young for that. But my family's situation is a bit complicated, so if you two have feelings for each other, maybe you should make an engagement…"

"Wait waitwaitwait a sec! It's a misunderstanding! I don't have that kind of relationship with her!"

Even if he killed me right now, I still have to make it clear.

"Mwu…you mean you aren't going out with my little sister?"

"No! Why did you think that?"

"Because she wrote on her Twitter that she 「is going on a date with Izumi Masamune."

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

That damn mouth of her! I knew that she did something dangerous!

"How should I put it, er, she was only joking. It's not the truth."

"….Is that so…hm…I also thought that something wasn't right. "

Chris-aniki sighed in disappointment. Looked like he understood.

“But --- if that is the case…no, it is not right ….ah….I get it….”

He frowned, like he was thinking about something.

“Yes?”

What “I get it”? Please don’t surprise me again!

“If you aren't going out with her, then there are things that I can’t tell you yet. Sorry for my misunderstanding.”

“No no, it’s fine. It’s not your fault anyway.”

“Thank you. You are exactly like my little sister said.”

“Yes?”

“But what do you think about that?

Chris-aniki grinned evilly:

“Although it sounds biased coming from me, but I think that she is amazing.”

“Yes yes.”

What is he saying all of the sudden?

But he is totally right, so I can’t say that he made that partial comment because he is a siscon or anything.

“You’re right.”

“Haha, you think so too?”

“Yes.”

*Creakkkkkkkk*A strange sound came from the female side of the bath.

“High income, a super cute appearance….”

*CreakkkkkkkkCreakkkkkkkkCreakkkkkkkk *

“Good looking, very good cooking, she made me happy whenever we were together – I think that she would be a good wife in the future.”

*CreakkkkkkkkCreakkkkkkkkCreakkkkkkkk *

“Is that so?”

Chris-aniki showed me a prideful look just like Elf.

“Although she doesn’t look like that, but I’m sure that when she meets someone she truly loves, she will be a faithful lover. She also has good living experience, a comely, friendly personality. Not to mention that she can play music, speak foreign languages and do a lot of things, she's totally a skillful girl. As long as she practice to be a wife, I bet she will be very good – that was the way my family taught her after all."

Wow. Elf is really, really amazing. She has so many good points.

Then he raised a finger and asked me:

"So I ask you? What part of my little sister is not okay?"

…Why does he sounded like he is lecturing me because I rejected Elf? Didn't I said that this was a misunderstanding?

"Well…if I really need to say…."

"And?"

"Aside from above, everything else is not okay."

"Haha, brat, say it clearer."

Chris-aniki broke into laughter. Looked like he found this funny .

"Well said! My little sister has a lot of good points, but that doesn't change the fact that she also has a lot of bad points. Always late when submitting manuscripts, unprofessional attitude , has no discipline, not to mention her chuunibyou. Frankly speaking, she's an idiot."

"She really is an idiot."

*Creakkkkkkkk *Again? What was that, it was so noisy!

Chris-aniki was badmouthing his own little sister while laughing, the cold persona had completed disappeared, replaced by a friendly, nice elder brother – which I liked.

“However!”

I still wanted to say something. I can’t let someone badmouth my friend that easily.

“For her, her bad points are also her good points…her idiocy is also her cute side. Maybe her chuunibyou causes headache to others, but I think that she’s cool. Although the way she works is unprofessional, but I think that she has got a point. When I began writing a new novel, she helped me a lot…how should I put it… well, I don’t think I could, but I think that Elf is a special girl, someone who can take care of her issues by herself, someone who is very charming, and a very dependable senpai. I’m only here thanks to her.”

“………”

Chris-aniki looked at me in surprise.

“If it wasn’t because I already have someone I like, I would have fallen for her at least five times already.”

Like back then, back then – and back then ---

In an instant, many chances reappeared in my mind. Not only was "cute", she was "becoming much cuter". Yamada Elf is someone so amazing that it make Izumi Masamune's heart race.

"….Is that so? I understand."

Chris-aniki took a deep breath and said.

"I understand completely."

He repeated it once more.

After that, when we were getting out of the bath house, we meet Elf outside. She was wearing a yukata, steam still coming out of her body.

Girls sure looked so erotic after taking a bath – huh?

"You…."

"Wh, wh, what?"

"Your face is so red! Did you faint while bathing?"

"Sh, sh, sh, shut up! Hate!"

With a bright red face, she yelled at me before turned around and left.

….What is the meaning of that?

That night.

“After that, everyone ate the dinner that Elf made.”

「Was it good?

“Yup. Although I wasn’t able to make it as good as her, I will make some for you when I return.”

I was talking with Sagiri via Skype.

In front of me is the laptop screen, which showed her without a mask on. There was no one else here. Just me and Sagiri.

“Oh right, I was still unable to explain it clearly to Shido-kun. Even when Chris-aniki helped me…we ended up in two different rooms.”

「Um

She smiled gently while listening to me.

…..How come speaking with her via skype creates a better atmosphere than speaking face to face?

「Did you get reference materials?

“How should I put it…now I know what a southern island is like. Everyone had a lot of fun – because of that I got lots of reference materials.”

「I see. This trip was a right choice then.

“…Yup, it was. Thank to you.”

Although I hesitated for a bit, but in the end I told her what I really thought.

Maybe it was the right choice. Her smile was getting bigger. I laughed too.

“Next time, let’s go to a hot spring together.”

「Don’t wanna.

“W, why?”

「Because, Nii-san…you must be thinking about something perverted….

“I’m not ~~!”

Our conversation…just like every day between us siblings…

Maybe it was my most memorial memory today.

“How about you? Did you eat properly? Did you get sick? Just leave your clothes somewhere, I will take care of it later. Dirtied bow and dishes too, you don’t have to clean them. Also ---“

「…You worry too much. I’m fine.

“Even thought…I’m still worried. No matter how much I want to, I still need to wait a day after tomorrow for a ship.”

「Hoh…why does it feel like a setting for Kindachi manga? [8]

“You are right. Elf said that this place was also suitable for a mystery novel.”

「If something did happen, I bet the first victim would be Elf-chan. The murderer would be a psychopath.”

“You meant Muramasa-senpai didn’t you! It’s so rude!”

Although it’s also easy to understand.

Truly she made people think of her that way – putting a kimono on a corpse is a familiar *modus operandi* of murderers. Not to mention she was good at making strange names for bodies – like the “killer wax statue” case.

“Anyway, today ended like that.”

「Um, I see. Sagiri whispered Actually, Nii-san, there was…a lot on my side as well.

"Yes?"

「You see – take a look.

"This is –wow."

Sagiri blushed and showed me the illustration of the main heroine of *The Cutest Little Sister in the World*

"Is that a cover page?"

「Yes…I don't have anything better. This is all I could do today.

"It's great! Wonderful!"

It was so good that I would need five seconds to answer which one is better: this one or my little sister.

「Ehehe…I will let you see the completed version when you get home.

「That's why…you have to return.

"Of course."

I will protect this promise even if that is the last thing I can do.

"Sagiri…do you want any souvenirs?"

「Um…actually. It's kind of hard to say…

She blushed and began to play with her hands.

“You can ask for anything! We are brother and sister! I will get you anything you want.”

「Elf-chan’s socking.

“Let’s have a family party when I get home!”

And so…

That was how our first night ended.

In the middle of the night, someone knocked on the door.

I stopped writing and stood up to open the door. Elf stood outside in blue-yellow summer clothes.

“Yo, Elf.”

“Um…Masamune…ah…um…are you free right now?”

I immediately noticed that she was acting strange. Normally, she had said that while looking directly at me, not stuttering like that.

“I’m free right now…do you need something?”

“Can you…go with me for walk?”

"Of course."

Eh? Why does it smell perverted in here? It's not like we were just taking a bath.

I ignored my bad feelings and followed Elf to the entrance.

"Well, actually, I have something I want to ask you."

"Eh? Tell, tell, tell me? Wh, wh, what is that?"

Elf panicked clearly. Did my words have that much of an effect?

"Where do you normally buy your stockings?"

"………………….Die."

She gave me an ice-cold glance.

"No no, I'm not going to buy it for me!"

"You're still going to try and explain? That's not what I meant! I mean, why do you pick this time too…forget it, thanks to you I have calmed down. I will forgive you this time."

I followed her to the door, I still didn't understand anything. Look like she planned to go outside.

"Where are you going?"

“Quiet, just follow me.”

The footsteps were getting further away. Looked like she was in a bad mood. I hurried to catch up to her.

We left the mansion, and made half a circle and walked on the road that lead into the forest.

“Elf, before is ---“

“The Elves’ Forest.”

She answered without looking back then kept going.

“You have read my debut novel haven’t you? The Elves’ Forest was based on the forest ahead.”

“Ah….”

The beautiful elves lived deep inside the forest. Both humans and monsters were kept away by the barrier created from the Sanctuary.There’s huge trees, full of life. There are sea of flowers beneath their shadows, and thereis a river made of a light spirit.

The Elves’ Forest that she described was based on a real forest. No wonder it felt very natural.

We followed the road in silence, trying not to disturb the quiet night.

We began to go into the forest. The road still kept going.

“This way.”

Elf stopped at the forest’s entrance, and turned to me for a moment:

“I guess I should tell you why I lead you here.”

“Actually, there is something I wanted to show you.”

Leaving two lines behind, she turned and walked into the forest .

…She truly looked like an elf, so I had a hallucination for a second….Shaking my head to clear this image, I followed her.

Finally ---

“ ------ “

The moment I stepped into the forest, I stopped.

In the night, some sparks of light appeared.

Slowly, slowly…those sparks of light slowly increased in number. Since Elf just mentioned her debut novel, my first thought were light spirits.

In reality, the light spirits were ---

“Fireflies.”

I turned to the source of the voice and saw Elf, with a magic-like light all around her.

“The deeper you go inside, the better the scene.”

“Alright…”

I slowly took a look around.

Those lights danced and invited us into the forest – that was a line from a certain someone’s light novel.

Muttering the original line, I followed Elf deeper inside.

Finally, the road ended. We stopped at an open space. Beneath us were smooth grass, in front of us was river of light.

“----------“

Numerous spark of light flied in the air. All of them sparked on the lake’s surface.

Elf was born here. Some lost human would also find an elf right here. That was another world, a fantasy world.

The scene that she wrote and the scene I saw were exactly the same.

“This…is…”

I’m speechless. She turned around and half-danced, half-walked to me.

“How is it? What do you think about this Elves’ Forest?”

That was what her female protagonist said too.

“Beautiful.” I couldn’t say anything else. “So beautiful.”

“I see. It’s good to hear.”

Elf smiled gently. A noble, gentle and a very familiar smile.

“No pictures, okay. Be sure to look at it carefully and remember .”

“…Um”

What a pity. If I was better at drawing, I could draw this scene. Thus, I could only stand there, looking at everything.

“Thank you.” My mouth unconsciously said.

“You’re welcome.”

We stood side by side and enjoyed the view.

“This is where--- Father …I mean Papa proposed to the one he liked – my mother.”

“So romantic.”

“Yes. But he failed.”

“Eh? Really?”

I think that this is the best place to propose.

“My mother hates insects.”

~ Ah ~ ah.

“She said 「I can’t believe that you dare to propose in this situation and cruelly refused.”

I really wanted to say something to Elf’s father. He should have checked this before proposing.

“But since you’re here, that mean they still ended up married, right?”

“Gems, clothes, a yacht…My father spent years giving her presents, and he had to bet everything, to kneel down and propose until my mother finally accepted. Because there were a lot of people who wanted to marry my mother – I mean, Mama. They also spent a lot of money to undermine their competitor, to secretly hire lots of extras, to take part in a tiresome tennis tournament. Papa always boasted about how hard it was for him back then.”

Elf’s father is really tough…

I myself don’t think that this was something you should boast about, and definitely shouldn’t tell your daughter.

Still…

"I can understand your father's feeling."

"You can?"

"Your father did all that because he loved your mother. No one can give the one up the one they love for someone else."

He was serious. Deadly serious. By revealing his trump card, he bet everything on a final move. I would do the same if I were him.

"Is that so?"

Elf smiled her usual prideful smile.

"I thought so too. Although the way Papa did it was overboard --- but it was the right choice."

We both fall silent for a while.

"So…why did you tell me all of this?"

"Onii-sama…I meant, aniki…he said something strange to you, didn't he?" Elf blushed and turned away.

"You don't have to forcefully hide your high class lady way of talking."

"I, I'm not! Anyway, answer my question."

"Ah…strange huh…well…there is one…"

But it was hard to say.

“He told me something like 「marriage to my little sister .”

“Um….Um…can I explain? That…er…that…where should I begin…”

Elf panicked. She paused for several seconds and said:

“My father has passed away.”

I wondered if she tried to make it as casually as possible.

“…..I see.”

“Um. You see, before he died, he told Mama that --- it’s just as a precaution anyway – he said 「Please take care of the children, teach them to become good adultsand please let them be happy .”

“………”

…All parents are like that. In situations like this ---

“I still remember what Mama’s answer was – 「Alright, I will do like you said one last time.”

--- You need to say it clearly.

“Originally, Mama was very strict with others. After that, she became stricter, especially toward us siblings. She kept saying 「Everything was for your happiness in the future . Aniki found that too troublesome and left the house as soon as possible, leaving me behind. That meant the amount of stuff I needed to learn increased a lot – because of this reason, he always felt that he owed me an apology.”

Although he still does not allow me to extend my deadline – Elf laughed in self-mocking tone.

“That’s basically it. Mother gave me a really hard time. But I don’t hate her. In fact, I’m thankful. I love my parents. In order for her to be happy, to fulfill my father’s wishes, I want to be happy, to succeed.”

“But who I’m going to marry is something I alone will decide.”

Here is the main topic.

“Mom has talked with me about marriage before. I normally always listened to her, but not this time. I have to be happy. My life-partner is someone I want to decide for myself.”

Now that I think about it, Elf is always living alone.

“And then – you run away?”

“No, not run away. I left after explaining everything. Otherwise how dare I came back to this mansion?”

That mean she convinced her mother. But that didn’t explain Elf ’s situation.

Although she said she bought that house to make it easier for her to work in Tokyo…but let’s leave that aside for now.

Everything Elf said wasn’t the reason for her “to become a novelist”. They were just a prologue for what she is about to say.

“Can you say it…clearer?”

“Well, basically ….”

“Mother is an idiot! If I want to be happy in the future, then I need to be happy tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, the day after that too! Look at me, look at the girl who spent all her time learning! I didn’t have a chance to do anything else! Mother, were you happy when you lived with Father?Were you? If I want to be happy – I have to learn from him too – I need to find a husband who will live with me for the rest of my life! Is there any problem with that?”

“……Like that.”

“…I see.”

I finally understood. In other words, she told me all this since I’ m an older brother, I care a lot for my little sister too…right?

But I still don’t understand why did Chris-aniki’s suddenly approved of me.

“….That is my situation – do you get it?”

“I do.”

Elf just explained why did Chris-aniki said something so strange. Probably she did that so I wouldn't have any strange misunderstandings.

But in that case, she could have said that at the mansion. Why did Elf bring me here, to this special place? To the Elves' Forest where her father proposed to her mother?

"Thank you very much."

Thank you. This trip was very useful.

Beside…I felt that I have become a lot closer to my neighbor.

"I'm very happy."

"Eh? Don't try to end the story so soon. I'm still not done yet."

"There's still more?"

"Yes…" Elf blushed "Okay…I'm only going to say it once, so listen carefully."

"Um."

What? What is with this atmosphere? I felt like someone was grabbing my heart.

This feeling…I had felt it before…it was….

Before I could think of anything, my eyes had already been glued to hers.

Elf said:

“You are a candidate for my groom.”

“Eh…wh, wh, wh, what…?”

“Don’t misunderstand! It’s not like I like you or anything! It’s just, just – I meant, I only think that if I married you, everyday would be very fun, very happy.”

Wh, what are you saying! So embarrassing!

“So, so, so that means…right now…you’re proposing to me?”

Elf’s face turned bright red, and she yelled:

“It’s not! It’s not a proposal! I, I, I only told you that you have a chance to become my groom! You are a candidate! Candidate! Got it?”

“Candidate?”

“Yes! Candidate! I’m not proposing to you, you are the one who will have to propose to me!”

She massaged her chest and pointed at me:

“I will only teach you how to succeed after you propose to me!”

"I will not propose to you…because I ---"

I have someone else I like.

"No, you will."

Elf smiled confidently and put a hand over her chest.

"Because you will like me."

She pouted, closed her eyes, her tone serious.

"In the near future….you will not like anyone else aside from me…"

Full of confidence, and stubbornness – a head strong girl was right in front of me.

"………"

It's clear that no girl proposed to me.

It's clear that Elf didn't.

Yet my heart was racing, my head had become hotter.

My mind told me that wasn't the case, but the heart told me that it was.

"You…you..say something."

" --- Ah, I –"

“No, forget it.”

She waved her hand, cut me off.

“Let’s go back! I will let you off the hook for today.”

We stood next to the sparking lake, the smell of earth, of trees, of glass and the sound of insects rang with my heart beat.

Elf took a few steps almost like she was running away, but she suddenly stopped and turned back:

“Masamune, I will give you a special award and tell you my real name.”

Although she acted like it was nothing, I could see her reddened face and harsh breathing.

“Emily. Make sure to use that name when you ask for my hand in marriage.”

She told me her name just like an Elf Princess.

Chapter 3

第三章

The second day of the trip.

Outside, the sun was about to rise.

I sat in front of my laptop at the desk, still working. Right now I was writing the novel that I promised Muramasa-senpai.

On another note, I had already given her “Izumi Masamune unpublished novels”. This is the afterstory of *The Silver Wolf of reincarnation*.

Since I returned from the Elves’ Forest, I had been working.

Of course I felt tired after a long day of playing, but after so many things happened I had a headache. Since I couldn’t sleep and I had some nice ideas, I tried writing in the meantime instead.

“Alright! Finished!”

I felt like I was playing a game that I enjoy very much, or reading a very interesting novel – it would be such a waste to go to sleep now. Even if I knew I had school tomorrow, that without enough sleep the next day would be terrible, I still couldn’t stop. Just a bit more. A little more. One more boss….and it continued until the night had passed. You guys know that feeling, don’t you?

Right now that was how I felt.

I had been writing for a long time. Only now I did I realize that it was almost morning.

"Not to mention that….I probably won't be able to wake up easily if I went to sleep now.

I turned on the printer that I borrowed from Chris-aniki.

If I bound this stack of A4 papers into one, I would have a manuscript.

Most of the time, a novelist's work consisted of taking manuscripts to a debate with his editor. Usually, during those meeting each of us would have a stack like that.

"Alright…alright…alright."

I put on some clothes and went to the door which lead to the corridor, took a deep breath, calmed myself down and took a step out.

This mansion's corridor was as good as any high-class hotel, everything was so bright.

When I arrived at the main hall, I stopped.

"------------"

From where I stood, I could see Muramasa-senpai on the chair. She was wearing the same kimono as he was at our first meeting.

The orange light shone on her pure white neck. She had a dapper and decorous aura, which was easily able to charm people.

I found myself lost for words.

After some debate, I decided to greet her:

"Senpai."

"……………"

No response. It looked like she was focus on reading.

….That looked like one of my unpublished novels. Sagiri once said that it was embarrassing to see someone read your novel right in front of you.

….And it was even more embarrassed when someone read them with that amount of focus.

Now that I think about it, Eromanga-sensei, who published all the steps of her drawings online really was a perverted girl. Maybe all illustrators are perverts, to some degree.

I stepped inside and sat down in front of Muramasa-senpai, and took my manuscript out to read.

I should read it one more time before giving it to Muramasa-senpai – well, actually my past experience told me that I've never found any problem with my finished manuscripts.

But for senpai, I have to do this.

….Much later…

"Ah~ it's so good!"

A child-like voice came from in front of me.

I looked up and met Muramasa-senpai's eyes while she was stretching her neck.

“------------“

Both of us feel silent for a moment.

“Eh? Ehhhh? --- Ah, ah, ---- Ma, Masamune?” She blushed and panicked.

“Why, why are you here?”

“I was reading my manuscript.”

“…Since, since when?”

“I don't really know. It feel like a long time to me.”

“Why…didn't you say…anything…”

“I did. But you didn't seem to notice.”

“~~”

Muramasa-senpai's whole body froze, she muttered to herself repeatedly.

“…I failed…failed…again….”

“It’s normal for people who are too focus on something to not know what’s going on around them, you don’t have to be embarrassed….”

“No, no…it’s not….then….um….did I….make any strange expressions?”

“Nope, you didn’t.”

Or rather, you were so beautiful that I felt charmed.

“Phew…thank heavens…I was about to hide under a bed….”

I don’t know why Muramasa-senpai looked that way, but she seemed okay now. She slapped herself and said:

“Alright.”

The panicked expression disappeared, replaced by the usual cold and calm one.

“I’m alright…sorry for making you see me like that.”

“I don’t mind.”

“Eh, by the way…you woke up so early, huh?”

“I didn’t sleep at all. Saturday is a day for me to work overnight , the perfect time to write.”

“I see…you work overnight on Saturdays too. Same here…I spent yesterday reading your unpublished novel. About that… after I fully understand them I will tell you my opinion."

“I’m glad to hear that.”

I tried to remain calm, but inside I felt so embarrassed.

“Why didn’t your publisher publish such a good story?!”

“……”

Because no one will buy them.

She probably never checked the internet, never saw those comment who labeled me as a“Fake Muramasa” or a “Muramasa wannabe”

….I knew that…we….aside from sales, we were pretty similar…

I already had a guess about what she intended to say, thus I said:

“It’s the end of the week, sleeping is such a waste. I normally want to write, but I have to be awake for school tomorrow, so I wasn’t able to

“I know! Me too!”

An expected response.

"Since I don't have any school on the weekends, it's the best time to write! Really, why dohumans need to eat and sleep? Why can't we live without sleep or food! Such a waste."

Every time I spoke about work with Elf, our personalities clashed.

"I completely agree!"

She truly is someone so similar to me.

Someone who likes writing more than me, likes reading novel more than me ---

Someone who likes to spend time writing – much more than me .

That's why every time we had a talk, we felt at ease.

Compared to my little sister, compared to the near perfect Elf, I felt that Muramasa-senpai is a more perfect, and more extreme version of myself.

"Alright…here."

I smiled and gave her my new manuscript.

"This is….?"

"The story I promised yesterday. I just finished it."

"*Silver Wolf*'s after story! Wah, so quick! Uwah! So long! Wonderful!"

Seeing how happy she was, I felt that it was worth me becoming a novelist.

"Having people reading one's novel" is big happiness for any author.

From professional to amateur, everyone likes it when people are reading their story.

Only people who had experienced the feeling when no one read your web novel, when the manuscript that you spent so much time preparing meets its end from with a "We can't publish that" could know how precious this simple thing truly was.

"Thank you, Masamune! I'm going to read it now!"

"That's my line, I should be thanking you."

I thanked my only reader from the bottom of my heart.

"Why are you thanking me?"

If she said that, that means despite many similarities between us , at the core we are different.

During our talk, the sun had risen. We went to the dining room to grab a quick breakfast before I began to write another novel.

For now, I still had no idea about volume two of *The cutest little sister in the world*.

I should prepare something already, but somehow I felt very calm, like I knew for sure that when the time came, I would find more inspiration.

Aside from my little sister, one of the reason I agreed to take part in this trip is to prepare reference materials for this moment – so I intended to write things that I wanted to.

Not the second volume of *The cutest little sister in the world*, not the after story of *Silver Wolf*. It was a new story, something I just had an idea about.

I hoped this story could become the best novel in the world that Muramasa-senpai wanted.

A story for only one reader.

To me, this is another way to relax.

At this time ---

"Morning! Masamune! Get up!"

*Thud*The door was kicked open and Elf entered, wearing a yukata.

“Oh, I thought you were still sleeping. Morning.”

“Yeah yeah…good morning, Elf.”

My heart skipped a beat. How could I not!

"In the near future, you won’t love anyone but me…"

She said that!

Frankly speaking, the way she acted like nothing happened was much stranger!

“…..”

Was it all a dream? She, she was so cute yesterday – no, no! What am I thinking --- I shook my head.

Elf glanced at the laptop next to me.

“Why are you writing a novel during a trip?”

“…..This trip is called “A trip to get reference materials and co-operate”, isn’t it?”

“Eh? Ah ah – right right, you’re right.”

It’s just a simple name, how could you forget that?

“References….right, references…Alright, Masamune, get back to your bed and sleep.”

"….For what?"

"Of course for a scene from a romance novel! It's reference material for me! In the morning, the female protagonist came to wake the protagonist up, but when she saw her lover sleeping her heart started to race --- like that!"

"Actually, I have been wondering since yesterday, does playing make-believe like this really have any benefits?"

"Of course not. Alright, let's begin!"

"Hey!"

Ignoring my protest, Elf pushed me on to the bed. If someone entered the room now, we would have another weird misunderstanding. Hopefully Chris-aniki won't see this.

"Alright, actor, begin to sleep."

Elf forced me to lie down, threw the blanket over me and patted me a few times.

"Good. Okay, Masamune, close your eyes."

"………………..I want to write a novel before the next meal…."

In the end, I gave up fighting and closed my eyes.

"Is this good enough?"

…I'm supposed to be sleeping now, what will she do next? Could it be that she will try to do…this and that?

After nothing happened after a while, I secretly opened my eyes a bit.

And then ---

“!!!”

I couldn't move. Either physically or mentally.

The, the reason…was because Elf had slowly drawn her face closer to mine….our faces were almost touchingeach other's.

Her belt was removed, the chest part of her yukata was nearly opened.

“…Um…get up…..Masamune…”

“….!”

I could almost feel her breath against my lips.

“Hurry ~ up…or I will keep teasing….”

…Wh, wh, what….

Is she…is she really playing make-believe?

Her face was a deep red color, Elf looked like she was truly in heat. She might really do it!

Just a bit more…then our lips will meet --- too close….!

Now…I have no way to avoid it….the smallest movement will cause….something to happen.

When I had already given up and prepared to meet my fate

*Bam!*A sharp sound suddenly appeared. Next was a * Krrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr* that a girl really shouldn’t make.

“Wh, what is that?’

I quickly opened my eyes and saw Elf on the floor and Muramasa-senpai, wearing cooking clothes.

With eyes like a shrine maiden on her way to banish an evil spirit, Muramasa-senpai raised the spoon in her hands and loudly announced:

“Almost….you only escaped by a hair’s breadth, Masamune.”

What she said sounded like something straight out of a heroine from a fighting-genre novel.

“Actually, senpai….this is?”

“Um…I’m helping with the meal. I couldn’t allow this demi-human who is lying over here to keep making everything.”

Demi-human…

"Kuh ~~ why are you always standing in my way….! And call me Elf. I'm an elf, got it? Not a demi-human! Elf! Called me Elf ---! "

Elf's eyes turned into ><, and she quickly covered her head from Muramasa-senpai's attack.

To calm the mood, I quickly jumped out of bed:

"Senpai, so you can cook?"

"I can. Although I can't make something like yesterday's dinner , but if it is Japanese food I'm confident that I could handle this fight."

Yesterday, the dinner Elf made was simply awesome – I believe that it ranked in the top ten meals that I had ever eaten. Even after eating a dinner like that, Muramasa-senpai still announced that she could handle a cooking fight. It looked like Muramasa-senpai's cooking was much better than mine.

It seems like light novel authors, both male and female were really good at cooking.

"I'm looking forward to it."

"Um. I'm almost done….come to the dining room."

She said, still wearing her cooking clothes, as she left quickly.

Although normally, Muramasa-senpai looked cool and cold, but sometimes she turned into a normal girl like that.

…This sudden change in personality made my heart race.

"….Hm….this time…I almost…."

"What are you saying?"

"It's nothing."

Still…Elf really is calm. I started to think that yesterday was a dream.

Maybe this doubt made me unconsciously called her by her real name:

"….Emily."

"Yes ♥"

An immediately reaction. Maybe because I called her, Elf's entire face turned red, she looked at me without saying anything. Her shoulders was trembling slightly

Three seconds. Five seconds. Ten seconds.

"Y, yes, Ma…Masamune?"

Seeing her pure, moist eyes, I couldn't help but answer:

“…I, I’m just calling you.”

“You….”

Elf’s jaw dropped, and then….

“You scared me to death! I will kill you!”

“You don’t have to be that angry!”

“I’m such an idiot! I, I I I thought that you were about to propose! I told you – yesterday – to use my real name for that! Only in that atmosphere! Yet you just call me that for nothing? Do you want to give me a heart attack?”

“Sorry. Seeing you so calm made me wonder if yesterday was a dream.”

“Dream my ass! I was trying so hard yesterday! Don’t treat it like a dream! If I knew that you would reach a conclusion like that I would have taken that 10% chance and gone for it!”

Shaking her head like a dog getting out of bath, Elf said:

“Really…ok, calm down. I’m a girl…alright, next is the second round. After eating we will go to the beach to play again.”

“We played enough yesterday, today everyone planned to work together.”

"Hah? ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~What the heck are you saying?"

Elf looked at me like she was asking “Are you for real?”

“Both you and Muramasa spent last night writing, didn’t you? That’s enough, let’s play.”

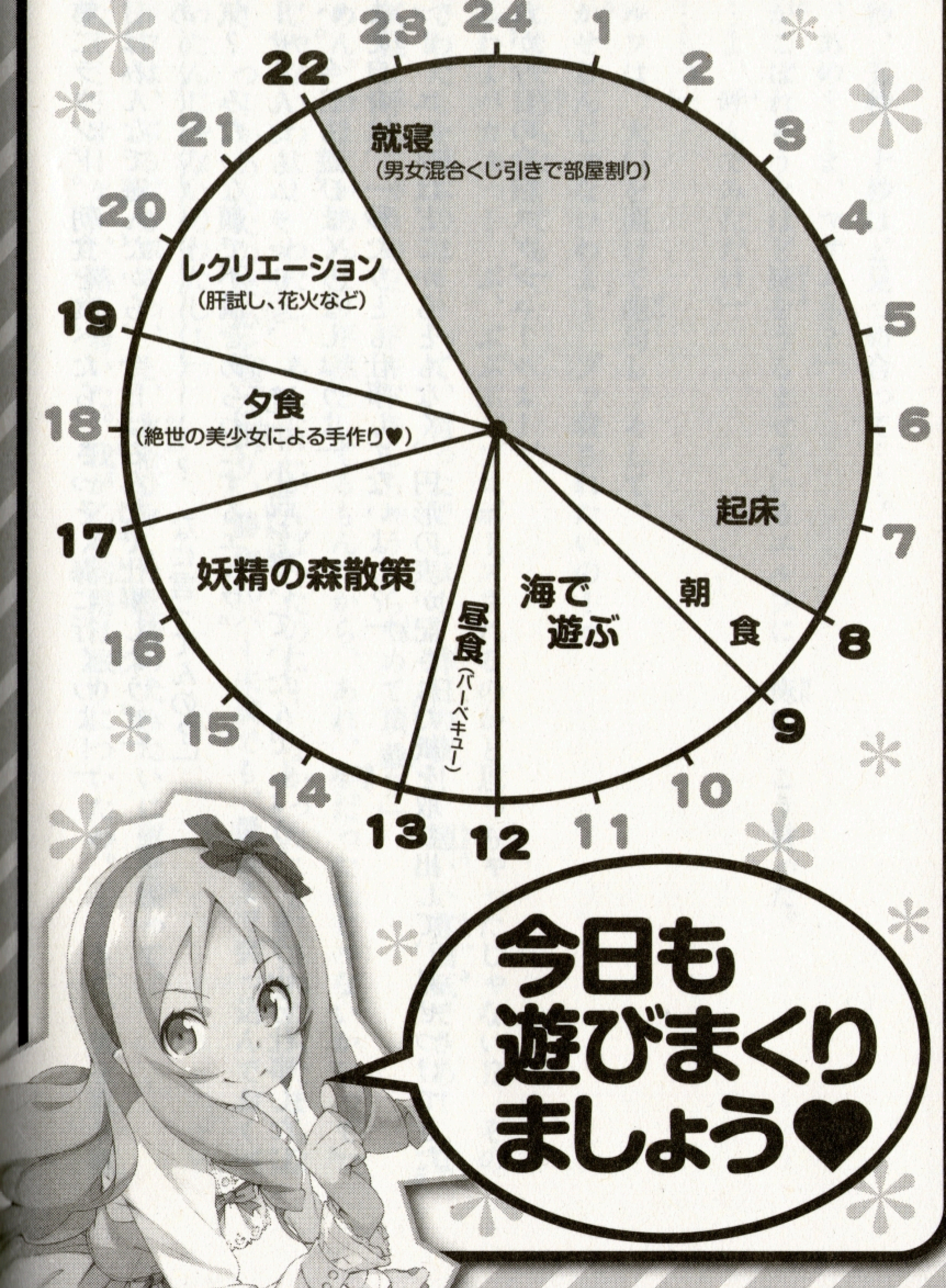
“Can you please work seriously for just a second?”

*shuffle*Elf showed me a circle-shaped paper that she somehow pulled from nowhere.

Looked like it was her plan for today.

＊今日の合宿スケジュール＊

作：やまだ えるふ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就寝
（男女混合くじ引きで部屋割り）
起床
朝食
海で遊ぶ
昼食
（バーベキュー）
妖精の森散策
夕食
（絶世の美少女による手作り♥）
レクリエーション
（肝試し、花火など）
今日も遊びまくりましょう♥

8:00: Wake up

8:00~9:00: Breakfast.

9:00~12:00: Playing at the beach

12:00~13:00: Eating lunch (barbecue)

13:00~17:00: A walk in the Elves' Forest

17:00~19:00: Dinner (A beautiful girl will cook♥)

19:00~22:00: Entertainment (Courage test, playing with fireworks)

22:00~8:00: Sleep (Boys and girls will draw straws to pair up)

Elf: Let's play to our heart's content! ♥

"How is that? Perfect isn't it?"

Behind her, somehow Chris-aniki had appeared and hit her head.

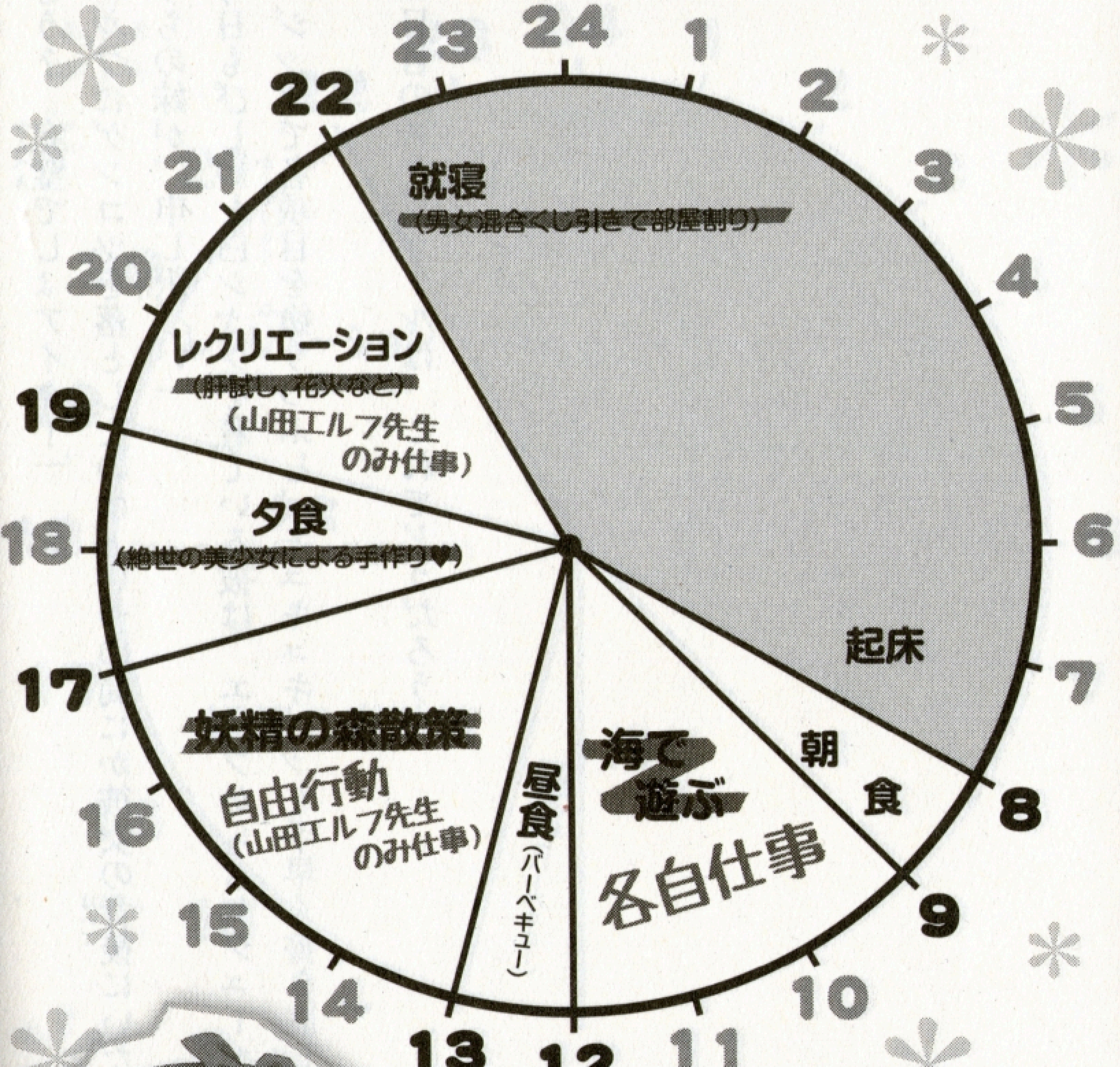
"Sorry for my little sister's behavior."

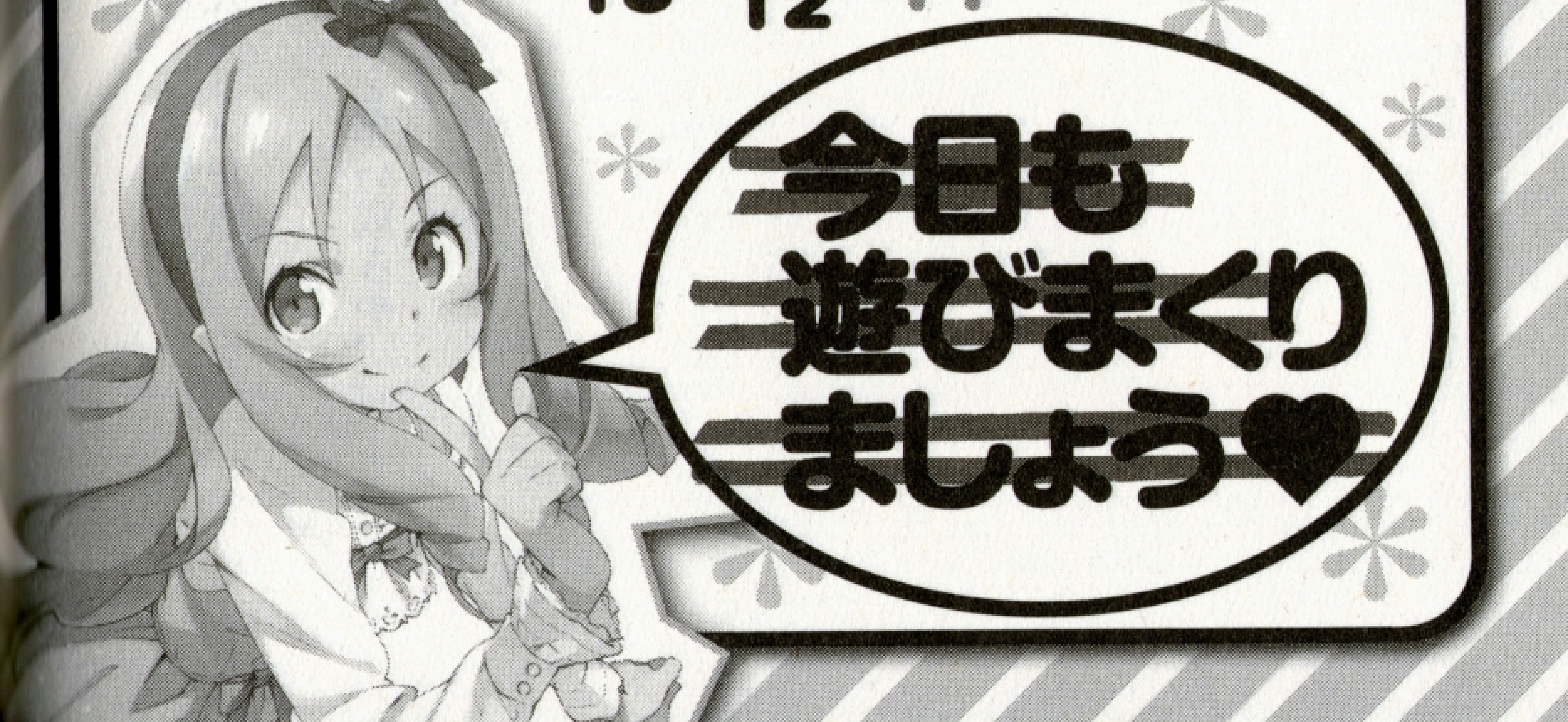
Today he wore a white shirt. He took the plan from Elf, he used his pen to cross out and modify something.

"That is my plan for the second day, how about it?"

＊今日の合宿スケジュール＊

作：やまだ えるふ




~~今日も遊びまくりましょう♥~~

8:00: Wake up

8:00~9:00: Breakfast.

9:00~12:00: ~~Playing at the beach~~ Work

12:00~13:00: Eating lunch (barbecue)

13:00~17:00: ~~A walk in Elves' Forest~~ Yamada Elf-sensei's work.

17:00~19:00: Dinner ~~(A beautiful girl will cook♥)~~

19:00~22:00: Entertainment ~~(Courage test, playing with fireworks)~~ Yamada Elf-sensei's work.

22:00~8:00: Sleep ~~(Boys and girls will draw straw to pair up)~~

~~Elf: Let's play to our heart's content! ♥~~

"Ah, it's fine."

"Wait wait! It's not! What is wrong with you two! Where's my erotic playing at the sea? Where is my date in the forest with Elf-sensei?"

"As long as you finish your work I will happily help you with that."

"Kuh…you are a bad guy! You did it on purpose!"

Facing a raging Elf, Chris-aniki simply said coldly in an editor-like tone:

“Hmm, what do you mean? Anyway, Yamada-sensei….since you didn’t work seriously, I’m going to lock you up until you finish your supervisor work of the next game’s story.”

As quick as a wink, Chris-aniki grabbed the back of Elf’s head and dragged her away.

“Alright, sensei. Let’s take a look at your work before breakfast. ”

“It hurts it hurts it hurttttttsss! I don’t wanna! Why do I still have to work on a southern island? Help me Masamune! Fight this bad guy and save the princess! My pure heart is going to be corrupted! I’m going to be turned into a Dark Elf!”

I don’t get it. Elf-sensei’s heart should be already corrupted by now.

*Drag drag drag --- bam*The door was slammed shut, the room went back to its usual silence.

….Although she reaped what she sowed, it really sucked for her .

“…Well, at least we can work together.”

Thus, by the second day of the trip, the “co-operate” part began.

After eating Muramasa-senpai’s meal, we gathered at the main hall.

Some people might said it was such a waste, why should we work inside during a trip? But outside it was too bright, I couldn’t see the laptop’s screen, thus we ended up inside.

“♪”

In front of me, Muramasa-senpai was happily reading the after story of *Silver Wolf*. She had a happy, charming smile on her lips.

“Alright…I should begin to work too.”

I turned my laptop on and prepared to finish the novel I started writing this morning. Turned to my right, I saw Shido-kun with a mini laptop in his hands.

“Shido-kun, what is that? Isn't it too small for a laptop?”

“This is Sigmarion III, the best portable writing tool in the world.” [9]

He even went that far. Shido-kun praised the machine and said:

“Although it’s an old model of Dokomo, but I’m used to it. I’ve used it since my debut, I’ve had it for a few years.”

"Ha…."

I couldn’t help but feel amazed at this mini-laptop, and at how quickly he typed despite that size.

Of course, my 「Let's note-chan - which could separate its screens and could show me the cutest little sister in the world was amazing too.

"People say that 「the sword is a swordsman’s soul , but for Shidou-shi, this must be your novelist's soul , isn't it?"

Muramasa-senpai interrupted us. She raised her head and looked at us.

"Since I always write my story with consumables like pen and paper, I have never had this feeling. I'm a bit jealous."

"You don’t write with a computer?"

"My handwriting is much faster….than typing."

As expected. Seeing how fast she wrote, I knew that she would be slow at typing.

"By the way, I read Masamune-kun's web novel with a Sigmarion III too."

"Really!?"

Shido-kun looked very happy.

"Wonderful! It's the first time I’ve met someone who used a Sigmarion III too! I never thought that anyone still used it!"

"Since both of you use Sigmarion III, it's understandable that you will have a connection. How about you two go get married." To my left, Elf spoke.

Today she wasn’t wearing a yukata, but chose a sleeveless Lolita outfit.

So in your opinion, Sigmarion III turned into some sort of demon sword?

Seeing that they were about to fight again Shido-kun said:

"That isn’t a bad choice, but it might be a bit difficult - Muramasa-san looks like she already likes someone else.'

"Ack?"

Muramasa-senpai froze, and began to panic:

"Wh, wh, wh, why are you teasing me too…."

"Why do you think that we don’t know?" "Why does senpai think that we don’t know?"

Both Elf and Shido-said at the same time.

"The story that you submitted at the World light novel tournament was based on your real life situation with Masamune, wasn’t it? I only heard it from him, but I already understood from reading it. You are a naïve author who wrote everything without hiding your feelings -- what do you have to say?"

"Before I met you guys, I already had that feeling. After we met, I knew for sure."

"…………." "………"

Hearing what Elf and Shido-kun said made not only Muramasa-senpai blush, but me as well. Damn it, why did the topic shift from work equipment to love?

Shido-kun looked at me and Muramasa-senpai:

"But…you two aren't dating, right?"

"Yeah…." I answered.

"Is that because…"

"I'm not gay!"

I must somehow solve this misunderstanding.

While I was talking with Shido-kun, Muramasa-senpai dropped her head, and muttered:

"…How…how….could you know…does that mean…all my readers…also…."

Is this…the first time Senjyu Muramasa actually cared about her reader's opinions?

Probably thinking the same, Elf added happily:

"Of course they know! Muramasa-chan's pure first love will reach all the readers! I bet those teenager light novel readers will think 「Muramasa-sensei is amazing, confessing with a novel! So ~ cute~! "

"Uhhhhhhhhhhhh….."

The more she heard, the redder Muramasa-senpai's face became .

"Actually, the topic 「find the one Muramasa-senpai lovesis pretty hot in the Internet! Ehehehe….I really like those kind of things!" Elf exclaimed.

"….Kuhhhh."

Muramasa-senpai hid behind her hands.

Hey, that's enough…she might die of embarrassment!

At this time, Shido-kun joined in:

"By the way, Toggetter [10]also has a topic about 「Senjyu Muramasa-sensei's first love ."

"I confess, I posted it! I also created the rumor that Muramasa was a beautiful girl!" Elf shouted.

"You're too much! You did that on purpose didn't you?!"

See! Muramasa-senpai's whole body was trembling!

"Uuuuuu…..uuuuuuuuuuuuuuu ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ That's enough! I don’t care anymore!"

*Bam!*Suddenly Muramasa-senpai stopped moaning in embarrassment, and stood up and shouted

"Fine! Revealed? Let it be revealed!"

She raised her well-developed breasts and looked directly at me :

"Everyone listen up! I, I! I like Masamune-kun the most!"

"Se, senpai!"

"I don’t care about any scrutiny! I don’t care about any rumors! I have nothing to hide! Everything is real! My love is true and I will have no shame about it!"

Senpai is so cool! But I'm about to die of embarrassment, please stop! I beg you!

"Kukuku…..you can't hide it anymore. I really like to see girls who care about nothing like you panic when they are rejected! I really really like it!"

Ignoring Elf who was clearly having fun, Muramasa-senpai turned towards me and loudly announced:

"I will be clear! I went on this trip despite knowing that my writing time would be cut short not only because I knew that I could read Masamune-kun's unpublished novel!"

"Ehh….."

Yeah, I do remember that Elf said something about other conditions.

Muramasa-senpai pointed at Elf:

"Because she said I could sit next to Masamune-kun on the way ….!"

"Just because of that?"

"Yes." She nodded.

Oh right. It was true that both in the plane and in the ship, I sat next to Muramasa-senpai.

Her momentum weakened, she muttered:

"The….she said on a trip we might have a chance to be alone… so…"

"…Ah…Er…"

Really, how much did she want to embarrass me?

Clap clap clap Elf clapped her hands:

"Alright alright, sorry for interrupting you -- Masamune, don't be fooled by how pitiful Muramasa is."

Elf glanced at both me and Muramasa-senpai, and said:

"I showed you before that she had some unknown A-class skills! Ok, listen carefully: deep down, she is a female character like the electric guy from A ** ing Sp **derman 2 」."[11]

"…Please use a reference that I can understand."

"I bet that when she is alone, she often has a talk with an imaginary-**Masamune**".

"Are you kidding me!!!?"

There is no way something that scary could be true! Right, Muramasa-senpai ?

Turning to Muramasa-senpai, I saw her with a terrified expression on her face.

"…You, how could you know…."

"….!"

…That…was…real?

I wiped my cold sweat. Elf's insight was better than I thought.

Seeing that I went pale, Muramasa-senpai asked with a gentle voice:

"…Can't…I?"

"Sorry, but please no."

Someone imagining a second person to have a talk with might be called moe, but if the person that was imagined was oneself then it's just creepy,

*Clang*Muramasa-senpai went as pale as a ghost. Then her body dropped on the sofa, her mouth opened slightly and half of her soul ran out.

At this time, a sound of hand clapping appeared, trying to cut us off.

It wasn’t Elf. It was from her elder brother, Chris-aniki.

"Sorry for interrupting your story, but I hope you could allow Yamada-sensei to focus on her work.'

"Ah, I'm sorry."

Both Shido-kun and I lowered our heads.

"Then…Elf-san, Izumi-kun, let’s work."

"Wait, wait! I still want to escape from reality! My work is higher than a mountain and deeper than the sea, I don’t know how long I have to work on them."

"Just do it." I said.

She knew that she had a lot of work and still tried to fool around….In front of her were many stacks of papers, each as thick as a phonebook.

"Look! All of this is my work regarding supervising a game! I have to read all of them, fix any problems I find, check all the player’s choices! How could I do all of this!" Elf cried.

Yeah, I heard that her debut anime "DarkElf's Crimson Flame's Exclamation" was being planned to make a debut on portable console. So all of those phonebook-like stacks of papers are a part of the legendary "game supervisor".

"Being a game supervisor sure is hard."

Just looking at it gave me a headache.

"Your deadline is less than a week away. I hoped you could finish it during this trip." Chris-aniki said gently.

"…A week might be impossible, aniki."

I find it hard to do. There is a lot of work involved in checking all the character’s routes in a galge."

"Bandai Namco's game development department 「used only a week to finish checking story setting of Toradora. Back then it wasn’t very clear, but I accepted anyway. Now I think that it might be impossible."

"You’re such an idiot."

No matter how good my condition is, doing this much work is impossible. Compared with others it’s a simple trick that uses a novelist's desire to win.

"You don’t have to say it so bluntly! It was my first time doing that kind of work too, I didn’t know it would be this much! I was tricked!"

Chris-aniki gently patted Elf's shoulder and said in dangerous tone:

"By the way, you need to take care of the work regarding your anime's story, the deadline is also coming. The novel whose anime is currently being broadcasted needs at least two more volumes, you should prepare them too."

"Where is justice!? Where is the law!? Why are all the deadlines coming at once? It's clear that I can’t do all of it.""

"I will keep forcing you to work until you finish. After this trip, you have a meeting about the original script, after the season recording, Blu-ray versions and special volumes for the games. Recently, fans have also asked for a longer novel. By the way, you need to check the manga based on your story too. Ah, about your seminar and exhibition…."

"Ohhhhh wahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh !!!!!!!!"

The worst things is when you found out that you have to do something that is "impossible to do". I will remember this lesson for as long as I live.

After that, we worked for about two hours. The main hall wasvery quiet, with only the occasional sound echoing down the corridors.

The sound of keyboard typing.

The sound of pen writing

Hic - Hic The sound of Elf-sensei crying.

On a southern island, in a cool and comfortable atmosphere that the air-conditioner made, work finished much easier than I expected. I was almost done.

Sometime later -- when I felt that my concentration was fading …

Suddenly I got the feeling that someone was watching, I looked up and saw Muramasa-senpai in front of me, smiling:

"Masamune-kun ♥ Is your newest novel done?"

She sounded like a little bird waiting for food. Silently apologizing for thinking that way, I answered:

"Almost. But have you finished reading my newest *Silver Wolf* that I wrote today?"

"Yes."

She held the *Silver Wolf*After story to her chest, and said:

"Just like you said, it is a really good side-story."

"Hehe ~ is that so?"

Although I knew that she would smile like this, I couldn’t help but smile too.

Writing a novel then quickly knowing what the readers thought made me happy. And that happiness doubled because writing is my hobby too.

Although I declined her offer "become Senjyu Muramasa's personal novelist" - but now what I did wasn't really all that different.

"What is that side story about?"

Still with one palm on her face, Elf tiredly asked. I raised my finger and answered proudly:

"A story where all the characters in *Silver Wolf*are alive and live happily."

"What a crappy story."

Elf roared and smiled wryly:

"What a wet blanket. Should I say that you ruined your own novel or should I say that you ruined your ending….of course this couldn’t be published."

I knew it, people would rate it worthless. But I knew why I wrote it.

This was a story that I couldn’t let my fans read.

A story that even if I wanted to write, no one would like to read.

"But…you like it, don’t you?"

"Um" Muramasa-senpai hugged the manuscript to her chest " That was what I wanted to read."

I knew that she would respond this way.

Maybe there are some fans of mine that will love to read this story like Muramasa-senpai. But I couldn’t send this to them. And since I couldn’t, normally I wouldn't write it either.

"Thank you, senpai."

Somehow, I thought about "that person" who only talked with me via the Internet. The first one to give me opinions …if "that person" was here…they probably would enjoy this story too.

Suddenly --- I wanted to show this to Eromanga-sensei after I got home.

And then, after finishing the short story for Muramasa-senpai, I began to work on volume two of *The Cutest Little Sister in the World* .

Muramasa-senpai went back to reading my new story without a care in the world.

Elf was working on her supervisor project, Shido-kun was changing his short story he made for The World Light NovelTournament into a proper novel.

Everyone was working -- this is what "a trip to get reference materials and co-operate" should be.

At that time---

"Sorry, I have to go somewhere for thirty minutes."

Chris-aniki looked at his watch and stood up.

Elf's ears twitched a bit. Seeing that, Chris-aniki asked in an uncomfortable tone:

"….Don't fool around when I'm not here, alright?"

"Sure." Elf answered meekly.

"Don’t be lazy, alright? No playing games or going anywhere, got it?"

"Sure, Onii-sama ♪. I'm not going to be lazy."

Her eyes were sparkling. They had looked like a pair of dead eyes just seconds ago.

"………"

Chris-aniki massaged his temple and sighed:

"…Please take care of her for me."

Saying that, he hesitated then left.

*Click*The door closed. Elf waited a while to check if he really was gone before her mood skyrocketed, like her seal was broken.

"Alright! Let's play! Everyone, let's play."

*Click click*Chris-aniki returned.

"Did anyone say something?"

"Onii-sama, you are mistaken."

*Click*Chris-aniki left again.

"Phew…About scared me to death."

….What an interesting pair of siblings.

To tell the truth, I was jealous. If only Sagiri and I could speak to others this way.

"Alright…let's play."

Still sitting on the sofa, Elf suggested quietly like a thief.

"He asked us to take care of you."

"Elf-san, work properly."

"I don't ~ wanna! That was two hours of forced labor. I need to play in order to recover my concentration! Please! Just a bit! Alright!? The bad guy is gone, please? Alright? Alright? Please ♥ "

Elf begged me and Shido-kun.

Of course, Muramasa-senpai was still reading not caring about anything. She was someone who only cared about what she was interested in.

Since Elf was so troublesome which made it that we couldn't work, we had no choice but to say:

"Just a bit, okay?"

"Thank you ♪ I like this gentle side of you!"

….That didn't sound like a compliment.

Shido-kun also smiled wryly:

"…So what will we play? We obviously couldn’t play outside, let's play something quick."

"We could only play this!"

*Shhhzzzz*Elf suddenly stood up and pushed the sofa back a few centimeters:

"King's game."

"You…you plan to play king's game?"

"The..the one that groups of friends usually…."

Both Shido-kun and I trembled. Elf still remained calm and serious:

"Yes…King's game. One of the three games for building relationships between boys and girls."

"But, but…!"

"Elf! Are you…serious? You really want to play this legendary game?"

"Of course. You two have probably never played it before, right ?"

"No, never!" "Not a single time!" Both Shido-kun and I said at the same time.

"Eh? Shido-kun has never played it? But aren't you already a university student?"

"Don't, don't make it sound like all university students are good at making friends!"

Well it's true. Even among middle age school girls there are bubbly and friendly girls like Megumi, pure and innocent girls like Sagiri, and perverted ones like Eromanga-sensei. So it's only natural that university students have a lot of types too.

But since Shido-kun wasn't bad looking, and he had a decent, easy going personality, I thought he would be the type who liked to party.

"Actually…I did go to some parties and met some girls…but…"

"But you've never played king's game before?"

"…Maybe..."

Maybe? I'm asking you!

I put that matter aside and turned back to Elf:

"See, Elf!? Even a bright university student like Shido-kun still has never played the king's game before. That meant games like Pocky[12] or Twister only exist in the imagination!"

"That's why I want to play! It's a chance to play rare games and get valuable reference material!"

"Kuh…"

She’s got a point…

King's game doesn’t require anything special, so we quickly finished preparing. Elf pointed at Muramasa-senpai (who was still focusing on reading novel) and shouted:

"Muramasa! You’re going to join in too!"

"………."

"Listen to me damn it!"

Finally, she noticed.

With a glare that said "I will kill you if you make any noise", she said:

"…What did you say?"

"Come and play king's game!"

"King's game? What’s that? I want to read…."

"Right right, I knew that would be your answer…come here for a sec."

Elf pulled Muramasa-senpai's shoulder and whispered something to her.

"….Muramasa-chan, king's game is…."

"…What does that mean?"

"That mean ---- ah, then Masamune…"

"What? Is it possible…oh….oh…."

….Did I just hear my name?

I had a bad feeling, but the two of them turned back to us. And then…

"Ma, Masamune-kun! Let's play king's game!"

She looked like she really want to play now. Her face was red, and full of excitement.

"..Elf, you are amazing. How did you convince her?"

"That's a secret. Handling Muramasa is a piece of cake."

Ah, that meant she tricked Muramasa-senpai into something.

"Let's hurry. First we use cards to draw straws"

Elf pulled four cards out of a stack of cards and put them faced down.

"The order is Ace, Two, Three and King. Ace means One, alright ?"

Elf shuffled four cards.

"Now each of us will draw a card -- alright? Whoever gets the King card will become king and can order the rest to do anything -- good, Game Start. I'm King!"

Elf said like she already knew she was going to be King.

"Hey, why do you act like you knew that you will get King card ?"

Where's the justice? Before I could ask, queen Elf ignored me and glanced at her servants (us):

"Alright….what order should I start with ~"

"…!"

Muramasa-senpai blinked at Elf, like she was trying to signal something. Elf glanced at her then back to us.

"First is the appetizer! Number one ~~"

Number one is me.

"Kiss number two!"

"Pffffffffffffffff"

I sent all of the water in my mouth flying.

Wh…wh…what? Kiss? What a perverted elf! There is girl in this game too and she still gave that order? Well, I should have expected that order….

Who could have thought that she would begin with that…

I blinked a few times before calming down.

Alright! Number two! Who is number Two? Could it be that Muramasa ----

When I was looking around for my target….

"!"

*Shhhhz!*Without saying anything, Shido-kun fled outside.

"Ah! He’s running! After him Masamune! He’s number Two!"

"After him my ass!"

I'm not crazy enough to try to force kiss a boy.

"What the heck! I even prepared a camera to take a picture!"

Do you want to kill me?

And why did I have the feeling that she knew I was number One?

---- In the end, Shido-kun fled without coming back, the king's game's players were immediately reduced by one.

Muramasa-senpai glared at Elf:

"Elf…it wasn't our agreement…I had signaled you the number …."

"I told you this was just an appetizer. Just you wait."

"Hey, what are you two doing! How could we play king's game with only three people? All orders would be instantly clear right after it was made."

"You are right. Let's add one more."

Elf calmly said ----

「Eh? King's game? Really! Let's play! I want to play too!

She called "the worse person to play this game".

Right now, in the tablet on my chest was Eromanga-sensei. We had connected this place and *the locked room* via skype.

「Ah ~ although I'm in a good mood since I just finish a nice illustration ~ but king's game? I have to play! I have long wanted to play this legendary game!

Well, of course hikikomoris couldn’t play this game.

It looked like Eromanga-sensei liked this game too, same as the rest of us.

"But how could we play with one player in skype? Besides, if we want to play you two should stop working together!" I voiced my question to Elf.

"Then let's make Eromanga-sensei our king from now on."

That was a good suggestion. I had nothing to say.

"Wait, in that case how could I and Muramasa cheat?"

"So you two cheated?"

"No no. But if we did that will Eromanga-sensei be happy?"

Could it be that Elf wanted Sagiri to feel the same joy as us? But …!

"Is this really going to be okay?"

What if we gave birth to an evil overlord? I'm really worried now…

"Let's give it a try. How about that, Eromanga-sensei?"

「Fine. By the way, I don’t know someone with that name.

In the end…

Eromanga-sensei will be our king forever. The second round began.

「Then ~ anyway ~ I could order all of you, right? Like number One, do this and that…huh?"

"Yes -- good, now give us your order! We "Knights of the Round Table" await your order, "Great King Eromanga"."

「I, I don't know someone with that dangerous sounding name!

That's enough. Otherwise we might get a complaint from DengekiDaiou.

Eromanga-sensei, no, Great King Eromanga coughed and gave her first order:

「Number One, undress one piece of clothing!

"I'm number One!"

Elf threw the Ace card down and quickly undressed. Her action was swift and quick -- wait a sec!

"You, you…! What kind of clothes is that?"

"Ahahaha, I have prepared myself since I accepted Eromanga-sensei's kingship."

Elf blushed slightly and smiled at me. Eromanga-sensei shouted :

「Ah, Elf-chan cheated! That is a bikini!

"Hmhm…I knew this would happened, thus I prepared…."

You knew that king's game will lead to a "stripping" order?

「Tantrums! Tantrums! But it's so cute!

My little sister has turned into Eromanga-sensei mode again.

….Forget it, as long as she is having fun.

"Alright, one round finished! Long live great king Eromanga!"

Since the king didn't change, we only re-draw our card.

Great king Eromanga jumped up and down like a monkey and made a new order:

「Ahaha ~! This is so fun! Ok ~ next! Number One!

*Brr*Muramasa-senpai immediately jumped out of her seat.

….Seemed like she is number one.

In an instant, an evil light appeared in Great King Eromanga's eyes.

「You who wore the kimono, take off one piece of clothing!

"Yyyyy~!"

Muramasa-senpai's whole body turned red, she tried to run to the door. In a blink of eye, Elf had stopped her and locked the door .

"I'm not letting you get away Muramasa! Strip! Now!"

"I, I I I didn’t know that this game was so shameless!"

"Of course, I didn’t tell you."

"You, you! You tricked me! You told me that you will use king's order to give me a sweet memory!"

So they had a secret deal….

With moist eyes, her hands hugged to her chest, Muramasa-senpai turned into an embarrassed girl. I couldn’t bear to watch, so I objected to Eromanga-sensei:

"Alright, Great King Eromanga! You can't order a girl to undress! Change that order!"

「Eh?

Although Great King Eromanga's voice sounded discontent, but surprisingly, she agreed.

「Okay, I will change it. If you aren't going to undress, then….

"…Glup."

Great King Eromanga patted her chest and then gave her order to senpai:

「Tell me what kind of panties that you are wearing!

I knew that you would ask that question. It's sad that I got it right.

But…this order should be fine, right? Could it be that I think this way because of what happened between Eromanga-sensei and Megumi before?

"Er, senpai, don’t worry…I'm going to cover my ears ----"

It should be fine if only girls hear the answer, right? I glanced at her, trying to convey that thought ----

"……………………………."

Now she was much redder than when she was ordered to " undress". Her eyes looked down, her hands covered her lower half .

---- *Eh? Is there something very embarrassing about that last order? I myself thought that "undress" was more embarrassing.*

「What? Muramasa-chan, what are your panties like?

If this wasn’t a game, everything Eromanga-sensei said was a big sexual harassment.

But she still keep her head down, like she was asked to do something very, very embarrassing.

Crap…that…that meant….

……………….

……………………Cough! Could, could it be…..!

Right when I finally understood, Elf also shouted:

“Ah! I got it! Muramasa, are you perhaps –“

With a *swoop*, senpai reappeared behind Elf and covered her mouth.

“I will kill you if you say anything!”

“Ugmugm! Ugmugm!”

Although she stopped Elf from talking, Muramasa-senpai was still panicking. If this were a manga then her eyes would have turned into two spinning circle by now.

When I still unable to decide what to do, Eromanga-sensei coldly asked:

「No panties?

Did you have to say it?

“………………..”

All sound disappeared from the main hall., Elf, Muramasa-senpai and Eromanga-sensei, and I …no one said anything. It felt like time had stopped.

……………………………

A few minutes later, when I was unable to bear this uncomfortable atmosphere anymore, I looked at Muramasa-senpai , asking "Really?" with my eyes.

"….!"

Her shoulders trembled – then she shot forward and grabbed the neck of my shirt.

"Because, because of the kimono…! Because of the kimono! Kimono, do you understand???"[13]

"Fine, fine, I got it!"

With the most embarrassing look on her face, Muramasa-senpai tried her best to explain to me "It's not what it looks like!"

"Hey, Eromanga-sensei, because of you, we can't play this game anymore."

「….I, I was just curious.

Curious my ass!

"…What now…"

Although Sagiri was back to Eromanga-sensei mode, she still tried to apologize to Muramasa-senpai:

“Sorry about that…um…If I give you the excellent illustration that I just drew, will you forgive me?”

“How could I forgive you?!”

Well, that’s understandable.

I think that Elf is the only who could forgive someone with just an ero illustration.

Senpai raised her head and said with tear filled eyes:

“Anyway! Let’s forget about this! Hurry up and forget it! I will …never play this game again! Elf! Just you wait!”

“So…what should we play next?” Elf tried to placate Muramasa-senpai.

At the same time, Chris-aniki and Shido-kun returned.

“Crap!”

Elf pointed at Shido-kun and shouted in terror:

“Kunimitsu, you betrayed us all! You told my brother how we were fooling around and playing king’s game, didn’t you!”

“…Eh? Nope, I didn’t say anything.”

"Eh?"

"I just met Chris-san by coincidence outside."

"Ah, I see. Sorry for doubting you."

Elf sighed in relieve. However…

"Hm…fooling around…and play king's game huh?"

See, you just confessed everything to Chris-aniki.

"Crap!"

It was a bit late, but Elf realized her mistake. She quickly covered her mouth and went pale.

With an emotionless expression, Chris-aniki looked at his writer :

"I see I see I see, king's game huh? King's game, right?"

"Er…Onii-sama? It's not what it look like."

"Then I will be the next king. All authors here answer my question --- 「What have you done ?"

He immediately lectured us. This wide-area-attack hit all of us. Well, since we did play with Elf, we were guilty too.

I glanced at the tablet's screen and found out that skype had stopped.

…. Eromanga-sensei had fled…

Chris-aniki glanced at us all and slowly asked:

“First is Shidou-sensei. What have you done?”

“Changing my short story into a proper novel! It’s mostly finished.”

“Good. Izumi-sensei.”

“I finished making an outline for volume two of my next novel! ”

The truth is I hadn’t even begin, but any novelist had the skill to create an impression that we 「worked earnestly without being lazy

Chris-aniki said “um”, and nodded and turned to his little sister . He spoke with a dangerously low tone:

“Yamada.”

“Yes!”

“What about your work?”

“Supervising the game’s script.”

“Yes – so where are your results? Why did you still play king’s game despite knowing this?”

"I just took a break."

"Is that so? Have you rested enough?"

"A bit."

"Good – today you aren't allowed to sleep until you finish checking the three main heroines routes."

"Wait wait! Wait! The efficiency of my work will drop if I need to sleep or I have to work late!"

"It's not. Yamada Elf-sensei can only show her true ability not when her enthusiasm is at maximum – but only when sheis forced into a corner. As your editor, I know this better than anyone. This time the supervising will be a success – although we aren't getting anything out of it."

"De, demon! The one who gave me this job is a demon! I have to work like crazy and get nothing? I want to improve my work conditions!"

"You can say whatever you want, but for the sake of readers and players, I'm willing to become a demon."

Chris-aniki cut off his author's disagreement.

"So, lastly – Senjyu Muramasa-sensei."

When he turned to Muramasa-senpai, his tone became much politer.

"I'm not worry about Senjyu-sensei. In this trip, you always strived to perfect your writing. I hope that a certain lazy novelist could learn from you."

"Shut up! Leave me alone! I'm angry!"

Ignoring Elf, he continued:

"The *Fantasy Blade* was continued this September after stopped at volume twelve. Based on its current sales, it will make another record in the light novel industry. This is one of the hot topics at my company."

A record in the light novel industry?

For real…? She's amazing. And not to mention that this book was only released in September.

It's clear that Senjyu Muramasa and Izumi Masamune's fates will never cross.

Although I said that I don't want to compare sales with others – but I still don't like to be compared too.

"Senjyu-sensei, are you writing volume thirteen?"

Hearing his question, Muramasa-senpai slowly shook her head.

"I'm very sorry."

She looked at my manuscript in the bag in front of her:

“I’m not going to write again.”

A simple line with unbelievable meaning.

The scene cut to outside of the mansion.

We picked a hill near the sea to eat lunch with barbecue. Above the iron net there was lot of food: shrimp, octopus, meat, fist – lots of seafood. All of us surrounded the table and ate while chatting.

At that time --

“What is the meaning of this?!” Shido-kun roared.

He downed another and breathed out, his breathing smelled of alcohol.

“What did you say? I think you’ve had enough, are you okay?”

I looked at his expression.

“Just one cup, shut up.”

“…It’s clearly not good.”

Shido-kun’s face was red, his eyes were unfocused – he was clearly drunk.

Chris-aniki said “I’m going to get some water” and run back to the mansion.

Since he said he finished his work, Shido-kun asked for beer as a reward.

And the results…before we could notice, it had turned into this.

I thought he was a respectable man, but unexpectedly he his weaknesses. Not only could he not drink, he was very bad at drinking. So that was the reason he couldn’t remember any time he ate with his friends.

“Ah ~ it’s so hot! Why is it is so hot? What kind of summer is this?”

…It’s so depressing to see him like that.

“You should take a break.”

“I don’t need a break! Louder! Hey, what did Muramasa-san said? What is the meaning of this?”

Maybe due to the alcohol, he was speaking everything he thought….

Seeing that Shido-kun was pointing at her, Muramasa-senpai’s eyes widened:

“I said? What?”

By the way, she had recovered from the 「no pantsincident.

“「I will not write again! Are you serious?”

“I’m serious.”

"~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~!!"

Shido-kun’s eyes turned into ><, and he gritted his teeth.

Back then, when Muramasa-senpai said “I will not write again”, both Elf and I – maybe due to the same reason – had no reaction. Although Chris-aniki narrowed his eyes, he didn’t say anything either. Only Shido-kun looked terrified.

Maybe the only reason he didn’t say anything back then was because he was afraid to ask. Now with the help of alcohol, he had no problem shouting it out.

Still with a twisted tone, he asked:

“Why..!? Why? Why?”

“I will tell you the reason, but why does Shido-shi have to ask? Are you a fan of mine too?”

“For a novelist who could easily write masterpieces like you to say thatis so irresponsible! Do you know how gifted you are? How amazing you are? How much your readers are waiting for your story? And yet you just simply discard a masterpiece light novel! Even for a joke, it was too much! This is unforgiveable! You are being rude to the novel, and to its readers!”

After being drunk – Shido-kun changed into a hot-blooded man .

But saying that to Muramasa-senpai is ----

"…I'm not joking. And I didn't mean to discard my story, I only meant that I won't write again."

It's useless. Muramasa-senpai pondered for a second before saying:

"But you were right. It was irresponsible and rude. People will get hurt if I don't write again."

"So…"

"But no mean no."

"Wh..!?"

Although Shido-kun was clearly surprised, I wasn't. I knew her. Unless something very big happened, she won't change her opinions.

Thinking back…Elf once told Muramasa-senpai "Why don't you care about other media? You have to think about them too!"

Muramasa-senpai replied was "You're right." "I understand what you mean." "You've got a point" – which all basically admitted that Elf was right, but she always added "But doing that will take time, time that I prefer writing, so forget it."

People like her are very stubborn. Unless I could show her *the best light novel in the world*

“Why? Just why?” Shido-kun shouted again.

Muramasa-senpai coldly replied:

“Because my dream has come true!”

“What?”

“No…not exactly come true, but so what? My dream is to 「 write the best novel in the world to read - a story that I could read happily – but after this trip, now I know!”

She happily looked…at me. Then she spoke, like a girl talking about her dream:

“As long as Masamune writes short stories for me every day – it ’s fine even if I don’t write anymore.”

“Nope, I’m not going to write for you every day.”

I took a big bite and calmly answered.

“Eh? Eh? Why?”

“Why? I’m not your personal novelist. Of course I would prioritize my own novel…”

Tch! This damn senpai and the way she looked at me….grr….

I couldn’t bear to look at this crazy fan anymore and I said:

“If I have time, I will write something.”

"Thank you ♪"

Usually she is so cold, and yet now she showed such a warm smile – to think that my story could invoke such different feelings in people – I felt so happy.

Even when I knew that I already liked someone else.

Seeing my dazzled form, Elf teased:

"You are quite a Casanova, aren't you Masamune?"

"Shut up! Don't tell Sagiri that."

"Alright alright. Well, an opposite gender fan just showed how much she likes your work – any novelist would act that way."

The way she talked sounded like Elf meant something else too.

With a face that said "dream fulfilled", Muramasa-senpai smiled and turned to Shido-kun, coldly said:

"That is why I don't need to write anymore. You got it?"

"Yeah…."

He didn't sound convinced. By the way senpai, you made it sound like I needed to write a novel for you every week….Well if she asked, I doubt I could refuse.

Shido-kun took a few more cup of alcohol and turned to me and Elf:

"Don't you two understand? Muramasa-sensei won't write again – and you two doesn't seem to be surprised."

"There is nothing to worry about, right?" Elf looked at me, begrudgingly.

"It sure is."

We smiled wryly. Elf added:

"And…let's ignore him?"

I took another bite, and nodded in agreement.

"Wh…what? We're friends, aren't we? How could you be so cold…."

"Nah, it's absolutely useless to convince Muramasa that way."

"She just doesn't care. She is an airhead like that."

Both Elf and I voiced our thought.

Hearing us badmouthing her, Muramasa-senpai panicked:

"Hey you two! I'm hurt! Although I hope that you won't try to stop me, but…aren't you worried a little bit?"

"Then ~ let me ask you ~"

Elf gave Muramasa-senpai's right hand a half-hearted glance.

Her hand was covered in bandages

“What is with those bandages? Why do you have them?”

Actually, I wanted to know the answer too.

--- **Because I can’t write anymore.**

She once told me that when she showed me her bandaged hand.

“You aren’t sealing the「Evil Flameunder that bandage, are you ?”

“Is this question…related to why you said「don’t worry about me?”

“It is.”

“…Alright.”

Muramasa-senpai raised her right hand in front of her face and gave it a light touch.

“I bandaged it simply because of a wound.”

Eh? More normal than I expected – just when I thought that.

“Um ~ so, what kind of wound? Where did you get it?”

Hearing Elf’s question, although Muramasa-senpai seemed to have her doubts, she still answered:

“All of you might know that there was a time when I felt really down, I was unable to write a fighting-genre novel.”

“Yeah, and?”

“After that, I made a condition for myself.”

“Yeah, and?”

“Until I fulfilled that condition, I would punish my finger nails really bad.”

Shido-kun sent all of beer in his mouth flying.

“Cough cough cough…blewwww” “Cough cough~! Cough!!!”

I also popped a shrimp inside my mouth. Only Elf looked unaffected.

“Eh…well, it’s not too far from what I expected…and..did you guys hear that?”

“Yeah….”

“Um.”

Shido-kun and I nodded weakly

…Long ago, I once rated Elf as a 「tsundere novelists with her readers

On the same line of thought, Senjyu Muramasa is a 「yandere novelist with light novels

Muramasa-senpai looked her heavily bandaged hand, said:

“This was the condition that I forced on myself in order to make me write good stories without fail.”

“But you don’t have to go that far.” I said.

“I heard that there was a famous novelist who would break a toe or a finger whenever he failed to meet his conditions. From his toes, he sacrificed eight in totals. Because of that motivation, he was able to write a masterpiece – unfortunately, I still had a long way to go.”

She took a peek at me and blushed.

“Don’t scare me like that.”

All of us were nearly scared to death already.

“Masamune, you really need to be careful if you agreed to become Muramasa’s personal novelist. I fear that there will be blood.”

“……Don’t say something so scary.”

Tremble trembletremble! This is the first time I felt so scared in my life!

Ahhhhh~~~~~~~~~~!!! *Thank god that I refused! Eromanga-sensei! I love you! Thank you for stopping me!*

“So – you got it, Kunimitsu?”

“…Yeah...I…understand…”

Shido-kun was so scared that he recovered from being drunk.

“We really don’t need to worry.”

“Wh, why? Didn’t I just tell you clearly?”

“No, no – or rather, I should say ---“

Elf shot Muramasa-senpai a glance, and coldly said:

“Novelists like you won’t be able to actually give up writing.”

“…What…”

“I bet that you will resume writing soon enough.”

“I…I truly intended to…”

“Three days. I’d say that you won’t be able to endure for more than three days.”

Elf raised three fingers confidently.

Muramasa-senpai’s mouth turned into a 「shape, and she said:

“Masamune….do you think so too?”

“Yes. Because we are very similar.”

“…Oh.”

“I bet that you will change your mind after waking up tomorrow.”

“….Are you saying that I’m an idiot?”

I think that no one here dares to treat you like an idiot, thought.

By the way, the way she pouted looked so cute.

“Do you have something to say, kouhai?”

Just like Elf said, she couldn’t endure for three days.

Just like I said, she forgot her declaration that she would give up writing after waking up.

Senjyu Muramasa was not someone who could give up writing.

But….

“Yes, I do – actually, there is something I wanted to tell you.”

“…And that is?”

"The way to write *the best light novel in the world*"

After eating, I took Muramasa-senpai to my room. A simple room with a bed and a table.

Just when she entered, she asked:

"Masamune, what you said during dinner…what do you mean? "

"I called you here precisely because of that…Just wait…ah, here ."

I pulled a stack of letters out of my bag and waved them in front of Muramasa-senpai.

"What do you think they are?"

"Ah! This is!"

…That was the reaction I was waiting for. Her eyes widened, she was deeply shaken.

….I knew it.

Knowing that my move was correct, I pulled everything out. There were about fifty letters written in Japanese, all said 「Letter for Izumi Masamune.

"They are the letters that fans sent me."

"………………Ah, ah ahah …fans…huh."

Senpai panicked. Her forehead was covered in sweat, and she avoided my eyes. Although I had guessed the reason, I still continued:

“They came from someone who always watched my every step – this time, when my short story *the cutest little sister in the world* was published in magazine, that person sent me a lot of letters. See , there are more than fifty of them. Isn’t that great? There are illustrations too!”

“Do, do you bring fan letters with you everywhere you go?”

“I wanted to show them off to everyone – well, just kidding, my editor sent them to me. I wanted to read them sooner so I brought them with me – this is the second reason among the three reasons that I have them with me right now.”

"….So what is the final reason?"

"I wanted to let you see them."

"!"

Her eyes wide opened. That was within my expectation too.

"…In other words…, there was a connection between letters that fan sent you and the way to write *the best light novel in the world*?"

Because of that, you let me see those letters.

She must be thinking that. Well, she wasn't entirely wrong, but that was not the main point. I think she already guessed what I wanted to say.

"You once said that 「the best light novel in the world meant that on the scale of one hundred points, it's still possible to write a million point novel, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"You said that you wanted to write it with your own hands - I think that's a great dream. So I asked myself: what about me?"

I looked at my hands.

"Can I do that…so I tried..."

"You tried to write *the best light novel in the world*?"

"Yes." I nodded "To tell you the truth, everything I wrote for you on this trip is the result of my experience."

"----"

She widened her eyes, leaned forward and asked me:

"So? Where are the results? Where is your *best light novel in the world*?"

I scratched the back of my head and laughed:

"I couldn’t do it."

"Wh…"

She was stunned. I laughed harder:

"I thought that if I could wrote something I liked, writing for a single person then the result would be great. In the end, it's too naïve to think that way. This dream couldn’t be fulfilled that easily ."

Thinking back, that was how Muramasa-senpai always wrote. I couldn’t write *the best light novel* this way either.

That was the experience I had gained.

A hint of regret appeared in Muramasa-senpai's eyes, she dropped her shoulders and said:

"Ha…I see….it's not funny."

I looked directly at her:

"Although I couldn’t write *my best light novel* nor *the best light novel in the world*, but I felt so happy like I had just written a million point novel."

"Because you had fun when reading them."

"--------------"

She blinked.

"What did you say?"

"I want to say thank you."

I wanted to show her.

"All of those letters that this fan sent were the same, she spoke like a middle school girl - not only did she like my characters, she said she wanted to read more! I…I was very happy -- it felt great! Even a million points wasn't enough!"

"!"

Muramasa-senpai's eyes widened again.

"You meant…."

"Yes. The way to write *the best light novel in the world* -- although it isn't the same as your dream, I think they are similar enough. As long as someone reads my story and praises it, its value could be compared with your dream."

"……"

She didn’t say anything. Did I fail to reach her?

In the end, she never cared much about her readers until now.

But even so, I still wanted to let her know. Even if she didn’t care about anyone or anything, she still would write novel in her own way.

"Senpai. What I meant is if you gave up writing just because one or two dreamsare fulfilled, that would be a loss."

Look around you.

--- My dream is to write the Ultimate Light novel - to conquer this world.

--- My dream is one day join forces with a businessman and sell my work together with my sweets."

--- My dream is to write 「the best light novel in the world to read.

--- Then I will bring you out of the room and watch anime together!

Numerous dreams, numerous treasures are waiting for people to chase them.

Writing is one of them. I wanted to convey this no matter what to my senpai who is younger than me.

Of course, I felt that my talking wasn't good enough and might not good enough to express myself.

Also…

"There is something I've been wondering for a long time."

"Long time? You and I just met…"

Recently? I know.

But it wasn’t true. We already knew each other for a long time.

"The one who sent me those letters was you, wasn't it?"

"!"

The sender's name that was written on those letters was a very girlish name.

Maybe --- she liked my stories as much as *that person*. She also cared for me, sent me letters.

Imagine my surprised when I found out that was my companion, my great senpai, Senjyu Muramasa-sensei.

"…You…you…since when…"

"Volume 12 of *Fantasy Blade* that you sent me was hand-written, remember? I recognized your hand writing. A middle school girl with such beautiful hand writing could only be my special fan."

"….Ah."

"I quickly realized everything. When I made my debut, your letter was the first one I received. I have read them many times. When I couldn’t write, when my story was bashed horribly, when I felt down…I turned to them in order to recover. Even if I was writing for one person only, I still managed to pick up the pen once more. Because that person said my story was good, it made me happy, it made my proud, it made me feel that it's good to write."

"………………I….I didn’t meant to….tease you…."

She blushed.

Seeing that, I felt embarrassed too.

It's really embarrassing saying that face to face.

"So…so…."

I was nervous during my autograph event. Now seeing how beautiful she is, I am even more nervous.

Ah…damn…I had prepared myself…so why did my mouth feel so dry…

My smiled probably looked very weird right now.

"Thank you for your support."

Since my debut, I always wanted to thank her.

Her eyes widened, then after a while, she whispered:

"Thank you too."

A gentle thanks.

"……"

"……….."

Neither of us said anything.

I felt that right now, we were both thinking the same thing.

Finally, Muramasa-senpai spoke first.

"I thought…everyone could only have one dream. It looked like I was mistaken."

She said in embarrassment:

"Even if my dream is fulfilled, I could still dream more…many more. There is nothing wrongwith that. I canchase them one by one."

"Of course there isn't. Everyone is like that too. I knew that you didn't think that far ahead, senpai."

I laughed. She laughed too.

"So, senpai? Are you going to give up writing?"

"Hey hey Masamune-kun, what are you talking about. How could I?"

"You said you would give up writing less than half a day ago."

"Hahahaha, how could a demi-human's prophecy came true."

"Elf probably didn’t think it would be that short."

I predicted this! This reaction! This result!

Truly we were very similar.

"So, maybe my dream was temporary fulfilled because of you… ."

She spun her pen with the grace of a novelist.

"I have decided, Masamune-kun."

"Yes?"

"I will fulfilled the dream to「write the best light novel in the world to read with my own hands. Thinking back, if you don’t become my personal novelist, then my source couldn’t be secured. I will have to do this myself."

"You should have known that since the beginning."

I told you that I will sometimes write for you.

Ignoring my protest, she raised a finger:

"Right now I have a new dream."

"Ha? What is that?"

What is Senjyu Muramasa's new dream?

"Ah -- my new dream…I myself alone couldn’t do it…"

She looked embarrassed, but she laughed confidently.

"I won’t tell you everything…"

That was the first time I saw a girl look so scary when talking about her dream.

Then she pointed her pen at me:

"First I’ll begin with making you like me."

A fearsome dream. Something that could destroy my dream.

Chapter 4

At the end of the trip, I returned home alone with a handful of souvenirs.

We said our goodbyes at the airport. It's clear on Muramasa-senpai and Shido-kun's case, but why didn't I return with Elf? Because she went back to her family with Chris-aniki. I heard that he returned partly because of something work-related too. Well, Elf didn't go to school anyway, so summer break didn't really matter to her.

---- If I go back with you, you will definitely force me to work on the plane!!

She was crying when people dragged her into the international plane.

Of course, none of it mattered to me at all.

"Uoooooooooooo……….! I have to hurry back home!"

Why did I run? Aside from hurrying to see my little sister – there was another reason. This morning, Sagiri sent me a mail:

---- Nii-san, today…when you will return?

"Oh! What a cute email!"

Could it be that she sent that email in order to meet me sooner?

I wasn’t sure if that was the case, but please understand that just a chance is enough to make me very happy. With my heart racing like a maiden, I rushed home immediately after getting off of the train.

Because I was hurrying, I was able to make it home sooner.

At the entrance, I glanced at the second floor ---

Wearing an anime mask, Eromanga-sensei stood at window of the *the locked room* and stared down at me.

“……………………….”

This scene was too unreal, so I just stood in place, my jaw opened wide.

Just when some question marks appeared over my head, the curtain closed and Eromanga-sensei disappeared.

“….What the heck was that?”

First, Sagiri should never open the window.

But she did. That by itself is strange. Not to mention that she was wearing Eromanga-sensei’s clothing. This sounded more and more suspicious. Enough to wipe my happiness away in one shot.

“…Let’s just go in first.”

It’s useless to stay here. I opened the door and put my luggage down. Then I called to the second floor.

“I’m home ~!”

---- *Welcome back, Nii-san.*

Regrettably, no one said that at all.

“……………..Well, that was about what I expected.” I shrugged.

My little sister never told me “Welcome home”. Not even once. This painful truth still burned in my mind.

But ---

---- *Be careful on your way, Nii-san*

Before I left, she wished me a good trip….so I hoped that when I returned….

“I’m too naïve.”

I laughed at myself and went to her room, carefully knocked on the door of *the locked room*

“Sagiri. I’m home. Souvenirs ---“

Before I could finish, suddenly the door in front of me slowly opened.

“Wahwah.”

To avoid that, I quickly took a few steps backward.

And finally, the door was fully opened. Eromanga-sensei appeared in the same coat and mask that I saw earlier.

"………."

He – Eromanga-sensei's aura pressed me so hard that I found myself unable to say anything.

Without using a voice changer, Eromanga-sensei said in an unpleasant tone:

"…You…what are you coming back for?"

"…………………….."

It….it was so painful to hear…..

I almost cried. It's true, I really wanted to cry.

Eromanga-sensei quickly waved his hand:

"I, I didn't mean like that…I, I meant…."

Although stuttering, she managed to say:

"Why are you here so soon?! That was what I meant!"

"Eh…"

Ah….So that is it…um…I did return sooner than expected….so that is what she was talking about.

“Why…because I wanted to see Sagiri sooner….”

I answered truthfully. Eromanga-sensei …

“Ya!”

She squatted down, her shoulders trembling.

“Hm? Hey you?”

Since she had her mask, I couldn’t see her expression.

“Uh….ughh….how…could it be…..”

She muttered something.

“Eh? What did you say? Sorry I didn’t catch it.”

I positioned my ears toward Eromanga-sensei

Then ---

“!”

Her whole body trembled and she showed a rather extreme reaction by pushing me:

“Don’t, don’t come near me!”

“Wh….!”

Ugh! That was the most painful hit I've received in my entire life! Not because she pushed me, but because my beloved little sister rejected me!

"….I….I….did I do something wrong?"

"Kuhhhhh……"

Eromanga-sensei stood dumbfounded for a second, then she shook her head back and forth.

"No…it's not like that."

"I see."

This is good then.

"Then ---"

"But, but don't come near me for now! Now! Right now! Get out of the house right now!"

"Eh, eh? Why?"

Is there any reason for me to leave the house? What the heck? What does "it is not like that" mean? Or "You're annoying. Although you haven't pissed me off, don't come close to me"?

"….It, it's none of your business. Anyway, leave for at least thirty minutes."

It didn’t look like I could argue with her anymore.

“…Got it.”

Thus, I meekly followed her order.

With a depressed expression, I took a walk around the area before returning home.

“….Ughhh…”

I had absolutely no idea what was my little sister was thinking. Is this the same problem any elder brother faces?

At the very least she didn’t hate me….but I was still curious about the real reason…

On the way, suddenly I noticed something.

“…Huh?”

There was steam coming out from the back of my house. From the bathroom, if I’m not mistaken.

With a suspicious-like pose, I secretly took a look from the entrance to the back. When I got to the bathroom, I found out that the light was on, and steam was coming out of a small gap in the window.

“…Sagiri is taking a bath?”

She wouldn’t come out of her room if there was anyone at home aside from her. So she chased me away in order to take a bath?

….Why did she have to take a bath?

“….She really should lock the window. How careless.”

To prevent anyone from peeking, I decided to stand guard here.

“…………………”

Of course I have to make myself clear that the thought “I should peek too” never crossed my mind. I didn’t even think about it.

About ten minutes later – when I decided that was long enough – Sagiri’s “you can come home now” mail arrived. Thank you modern technology.

“Alrigh alright.”

Scratching some places that was bitten by mosquitos, I returned to the house and walked to the second floor, once again, knocked on *the locked room*’s door.

“It’s me, Sagiri.”

With a *creakkk~~* the door opened. In front of me was Sagiri in her pajama.

“…..Sorry, sorry for keeping you waiting.”

“Um…you just took a bath didn’t you?”

Stream was still coming out of her body.

….My little sister just took a bath huh.

“Don’t, don’t stare.”

“Sorry. But seeing you allowed me to calm down.”

Feeling my face getting hotter, I quickly averted my eyes.

“I’m home, Sagiri.”

I repeated myself. She said “Um” and nodded, before glanced at me like she wanted to say something.

“Er ----“

Although I was wondering what she wanted to say – and if I should press her. But this atmosphere was too uncomfortable, so I began:

“You didn’t lock the window when you were taking a bath, did you? It’s not okay. You should check it beforehand, just in case someone --- “

“…………….How could you know?”

“…..Eh?”

“How could you know I didn’t lock the bathroom window?”

C, crap….!

“Eh, ah….that….ehe….”

“That?”

She shot me a questioning glare.

Crap…! If I said the wrong thing now, all relationship improvement that I built up would be destroyed!

And shouldn’t this stuff happen in light novel during a trip with a female classmate? Why is this happening to me at home?

Cut off from my escape route, I anxiously answered:

“I didn’t mean to peep onyou. I just noticed the unlocked window. I absolutely do not have any intention of looking at your naked body.”

“I, I get it already, stop talking!”

Thankfully there was no misunderstanding, but she was clearly still mad.

“Sorry…but why…did you choose this time to take a bath?”

“…Because….I’ve been drawing….for the last few days…so…..
”

“So?”

“Don’t, don’t make me say it outloud! It’s normal for any illustrator! Totally normal! I’m not the only one!”

“What are you talking about?”

“Forget it! Don’t talk about it anymore!”

Okay fine. I will drop this subject.

Let’s take another look again. First, she had been drawing for a few days. Then she chased her brother (me) away.

Followed that, she took a bath.

In order to do that, she didn’t hesitate to use extreme words such as “Don’t come near me”.

Question – why?

Hint --- based on what Sagiri said, it’s something all illustrators had in common.

Oh well, forget it. It’s unlikely that I could figure it out.

Sagiri coughed and said:

“Anyway….I have been drawing.”

“You meant….illustrations for *the cutest little sister in the world*?”

“Yes. Finished.”

She raised her chest in pride.

That meant those illustrations that she spoke of before I went on a trip were finished. But suddenly Sagiri dropped her shoulders in depression:

"…But I still can't do it…Sorry."

"What are you apologizing for? You've finished drawing, haven't you? What do you mean you can't do it?"

"Illustrations are all finished…but that wasn't what I meant…that wasn't everything…"

"What do you mean?"

What else needed to be "done"?

When I was asking myself that question, Sagiri said "Mwumwumwu" for a while then finally muttered:

"…I still…can't tell you."

"Is that so? Okay then."

"Eh? You really aren't going to ask?"

Sagiri sounded surprised. I nodded:

"I won't. Although I'm still curious."

But if she didn't want to say it, I wouldn't ask.

"I see….thank you."

She let out a sigh of relief

"Alright, here is your souvenir."

"Ah…."

Her eyes brightened, she happily asked:

"Is it Elf-chan's stocking?"

"No! A souvenir from that island!"

"Eh ---?

"Don't look at me like that. There was no souvenir shop there… it was pretty hard for me to get this!"

I shook the paper bag and urged her to take it. Sagiri hugged it into her chest:

"…Come in. I will let you see…my illustrations."

I entered *the locked room* and sat down in front of my little sister. Just like always when she allowed me inside.

"Here…."

"Okay…this is!"

What she showed me was…

“Is this the cover page for the first volume?”

“Not only that…here...”

“There’s more?”

My eyes widened. With a sweep of her finger, she showed me more illustrations, both colored and colorless.

“Oh! Wow! Nice!”

I was jumping in joy.

That was how much an illustration meant for a novelist.

“Wow! But why there are so many of illustrations? And all of them are finished too…”

“This…I practiced another way of working.”

She shuttered. Normally, Eromanga-sensei would contact my editor (via mail) then discuss what an illustration would be, how it would be drawn, make the stretches, then talk with the author…

Only after that will she draw for real.

During this process, there were a lot of rejected illustrations.

But this time, she skipped over sketching and immediately drew the final results. In other words, while some of them couldn’t be used, most were finished.

“I thought…Nii-san would be surprised.”

“Of course I am!”

I have been wondering what my final illustrations would look like.

I knew that they would be good! But I never thought THAT good! It was a total surprise!

“Ehehe…success. I want to see that expression on your face.”

Sagiri giggled. She was so cute that I didn’t dare to look at her directly.

“Actually, although I drew a lot, I still have no idea what’s needed and what isn't.”

“Is that so? Oh, right, there must be around twenty illustrations, we couldn’t use them all – such a waste!”

“…I still need to ask your editor and Izumi-sensei….and make adjustments…..talk to the supervisor….”

“Wait a sec! That will take a lot of effort! Here, there is no way I couldn’t use the scene when the main female protagonist appears! I want to use one here too….oh how could I choose what to discard! All of them are so good! What should I do?!”

I will need to have a long discussion with my editor later.

Just when my spirit was high ---

“Alright, now it’s your turn.”

“Yes?”

“Everything that happened during the trip…tell me.”

Somehow I felt a chill in my snipe when she asked that.

“Er….but….didn’t I tell you everything via skype?”

“…Yes you did.”

Why does it felt like I was being interrogated?

Averting my eyes, I slowly added:

“Well, there must be some parts that I skipped. But I promise you that I didn’t hide anything ---“

“Bikinis.”

That word became a blade to slash me.

"You saw Elf-chan and Muramasa-chan's erotic bikinis, didn't you?"

"………………."

I broke into a cold sweat.

Yes, I saw them! I got an eye full of both Elf and Muramasa-senpai's bikinis!

Although I did want to answer honestly, but that was definitely the wrong response. What should I say then…

"Lying is useless. I got proof."

Sagiri showed me the proof on the screen. On the beach, I was happily talking with Elf while Muramasa-senpai stood on the side, a lost expression on her face.

The picture also showed that Izumi Masamune-sensei was having a good look at Yamada Elf-sensei's bikini.

"…Wh, wh, wh…where did you get this picture?"

"A special gift from Elf-chan."

"What the heck has she done?! A picture taken automatically? Damn it! She dared to send a picture with people in bikinis?"

Does that mean she isn't afraid of being seen in bikini?

Not to mention that there was a good chance she had mentioned that I'm her boyfriend. Now I bet some of her fans are crying for my blood.

Although my thoughts were in chaos, the big problem was lying right in front of me in the form of Sagiri.

"Hm ~ you looked like you had a great time watching Elf in a bikini…."

Damn it! I couldn't say anything in the face of this evidence! I need to lie…lie….

"Yes! I had a great time watching Elf in a bikini! But what of it?" I blurted out without thinking: "Compared to her, Muramasa-senpai was much better!"

"What?"

What the heck am I saying!?

A controller is going to hit me --- was what I thought, but Sagiri's reaction was ---

"Wh, what? For real? Something was better than this erotic bikini? B..breasts? Bare breasts? I thought that bare breasts were impossible --- ah, now I see."

Hehehehehe…..Sagiri shook her head, breathing hard.

“Hm! Not only Nii-san saw Elf-chan, you also look Muramasa-chan’s breasts! Hmm!!! ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~!"

By the way, why is Sagiri getting angry for? Because I’m a perverted brother? Or ---

“Are you…perhaps…jealous?”

“Ehhhh!? No, no, not that!”

Wahwah – Sagiri panicked. I probably hit a bull’s eye.

“Yes it is! So you were jealous of me because I saw 「erotic stuff !”

“It’s not ---- “ *Clank clank * **"Not like that! Nii-san you idiot! "**

“Wow!”

It looked like that was the “wrong answer”. Sagiri flushed and roared.

“….Hm….hm…and then?”

“Then? What do you mean?”

“After that. In the King’s game, you saw Elf-chan undress and knew that Muramasa-chan doesn’twear panties, are you happy?”

“Wasn’t that because of YOUR order?”

Why are you getting mad at me? What kind of reasoning is that ?

"That…this is not me…it's me, but not me…."

Another side of her – Eromanga-sensei, huh? You're just making excuses again.

"Anyway, Nii, Nii-san, you are not allowed to like other girls' bikinis!"

"…Like? Er, I…."

"……Kuhhhkukuku….."

This was my weak point: no matter what state I'm in, the moment someone mentioned this, I couldn't do anything but accept whatever they said.

"Yes….you have to….refuse."

"………."

"……….."

A very uncomfortable silence surrounded us. Sagiri was probably as embarrassed as me.

Then finally….like a girl who just decided on wedding, she made her decision:

"….Want to see it?"

"Eh?"

"My --- "Even her cheeks were red "My bikini…."

"Wh…."

Her eyes was trembling, her breathing was hard, like she had a fever.

"That…"

Still not totally getting it, but I knew that now wasn't the time to lie.

"I do want to see it"

There's no man who could say that he doesn't want to see the girl he likes in a bikini.

"I see….you want to see my bikini….Nii-san you pervert."

"You aren't in any position to call me that!"

The hell…my little sister is too unreasonable!

"But I couldn't just bring you to the beach."

There is a huge leap in difficulty from "not wanting to leave the room" to "going to the beach".

But from the way Sagiri spoke, it did seem like she wanted to go the beach.

During the time when we talked about this trip, she also showed signs that she wanted to go.

Living like a normal girl, wearing a cute bikini, going to the beach – maybe she wanted a summer like that. But she asked me to go, while she stayed home to draw. As her brother, how should I thank her?

She wanted to enjoy summer, but she couldn't come out of the room. What could I do?

"…………"

Another silence fell before I finally said:

"….Sagiri, open my souvenir and take a look."

"Eh?"

"Just do it."

Looking a bit uneasy, Sagiri followed what I said and opened the paper bag.

"Open the box."

She did that without a word. Her small hands slowly opened the box. Inside is…

"….A straw hat?"

"…Yup….Hehe…does that give you a summer-like feeling?" I grinned.

"Although that is all I could do….frankly speaking, I'm worried that this might backfire…but when you can go outside…."

"Let's go to the beach together."

"------------"

Sagiri just stood there, her eyes opened wide. Maybe she was just surprised with my suggestion.

Or rather, she didn't know how to react with this kind of present?

I swallowed.

"………"

"….Nii-san."

"Yes?"

She slowly moved her hand towards the zipper ---

And slowly….pulled it down….beneath the coat snow-white skin shone through…..

"Wahhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!!"

I screamed and put both of my hands forward:

"Sa, Sa, Sa, Sa Sagiri? You, you----"

What are you doing? Am I dreaming? Yes, this must be a dream !

Why did you suddenly decide to undress ---

I slammed my eyes shut, my body stunned. Then ----

“Don’t, don’t have that perverted misunderstanding. Ah..I mean….bikini….”

“Eh?”

Bi…kini?

A very pleasant dream suddenly appeared in my mind…thus I slowly opened my eyes. In front of me was Sagiri in a white bikini.

White hair. Pure white skin. White bikini ----

Summer clothing, but at the same time it gave the pure impression like a celestial maiden.

“….Ahh…”

I couldn’t even avert my eyes.

Because this is the girl I liked, in a bikini! The image of both Elf and Muramasa-senpai was immediately blown away.

“Why…did you….”

It took me a lot of effort to even say that.

“………..This….this……uhhhhhhhh….”

She flushed and shuttered, the coat fell to her shoulder. Then she slowly put the straw hat on ---

"….How, how was that?"

She asked. I could tell that she was already really embarrassed.

"-------------"

I was unable to say anything. I'm the one who was embarrassed to death here!

"Ah….this…."

Before I could say something, suddenly Sagiri closed her zipper.

"Okay! Done!"

…………………….

Could it be…just now….That was her way of thanking me for the present?

"Let's go to the beach together –" was that her answer?

"Don't, don't look at me with such perverted eyes! Hurry and get out!"

"Eh….wait, I still haven't…."

"Later! Tell me later! When I'm ready to wear this!"

Seeing that my little sister was trying to push me out of the room, I laughed:

“Alright, I’m looking forward to it.”

Sunday. September 10th .

The publishing day of Izumi Masamune’s newest novel :*The Cutest Little Sister in the World.*

The day that will decide our fate. Today, I went to Akihabara JR .

Everywhere there were posters and advertisements for anime or game characters. Unlike the rest of Tokyo, this place truly seemed like “another world”.

“So this is Akihabara…exactly like the legend said….”

「Amazing…it’s just like anime.

Both Eromanga-Sensei and I sighed. Her voice came from the tablet that I held to my chest. Of course, she was speaking via skype from *the locked room*

Suddenly, I remembered something:

“Hey, can this be called a date between brother and sister?”

「I, I, idiot…..pervert…what are you talking about…

She sounded embarrassed. Even with a voice changer, her character didn’t change.

「By the way, do you still have the mind to say that?

“Don’t make things too serious, Eromanga-sensei! I only said that to reduce tension!”

「I, I don’t know anyone with that name!

The sight of a guy standing alone in the middle of the station and talking with himself should be weird, but since this is Akihabara, maybe it’s considered normal?

Anyway, it’s not okay to stand in the middle of the street. Thus I began to walk.

And the reason I came to Akihabara this morning ---

“Hey hey Mune-kun, why are you here so late? We are already closed. Your newest book will be sold tomorrow – eh? You are so worried that you decided to take a walk? Ahaha, really ~ it’s okay! Even masterpieces like volume twelve of *Fantasy Blade* won’t be sold the day before! Of course, although I couldn’t give you special treatment – but I will do anything else within my ability. I hope that this book meets my expectation! If we need more books, remember to call the publisher in our place!”

"Oh right oh right, there is good news! This is something only between bookstores but – tomorrow there will be a newly opened bookstore in Akihabara that will sell your book! It's true! Ah, there is no need to be surprised! You are the winner of the World Light Novel Tournament after all! It's normal for you to have one or two special shows! If you think that is a joke, how about going to see for yourself? I bet any bookstore will be happy if the author himself showed up! Okay?"

--- Yesterday, that's what the bookstore mascot girl Tomoe told me.

Thus I led Eromanga-sensei on a date between brother and sister – ah, no, a survey of "A show for Izumi Masamune".

I walked towards a nearby café and turned back, waving my tablet back and forth so Eromanga-sensei could see Akihabara.

「Nii-san, the overpass with escalator over there! Go nearer!

"Ok, easy enough."

「Over there! Turn back to Steins Gate!

"Got it."

We were watching while on the way to the bookstore.

….The closer we came, the heavier my footsteps became.

"…………..Phew."

I held the tablet with Eromanga-sensei in my hand harder.

“Crap ~ I’m getting nervous.”

「Eh? Even if you were rolling on the floor now nothing would change.

“Of course I know…but…I’m still nervous….”

I glanced at the screen. Eromanga-sensei titled her mask and showed her real face:

「Nii-san, too bad.

“….*Glup*….but thinking that maybe the bookstore had already opened….and someone might have already bought it…I have a stomachache.”

Just like seeing your child walk on stage. No matter how confident you feel, you’re still nervous.

Will people like it? Will they want to read more?

“In a bookstore that we just walked by, I didn’t see my book anywhere.”

「Those kind of bookstores that only sellto guests at the station, they probably only have one kind of book. It’s normal for them to not have ours, there’s no need to worry.

“Yeah….Izumi Masamune’s newest book…I’m afraid that they would think even if they bought them, no one would buy them.”

「Really…Izumi-sensei is so negative. Does this happen every time a new book is published?

“Yes it does.”

I think that happened to all authors too.

「Is that so…Nii-san, let’s take a quick look and return.

“Hm? I planned to watch for a bit.”

「You can’t do that considering how nervous you are. Let’s go back soon.

“You even said that….this is very important…do you have a reason to want to go back?”

「That’s a secret….you will know when you get home.

“….In that case…okay….”

When we were talking, we also looked around.

Suddenly a voice rang in my ear:

“Hey, look at this light novel, this is definitely a good one!”

“There's only one volume out right now, and yet this bookstore was already making deals with it, and the illustrations are super, super, supererokawaii too! I think I can expect really great things from this one!”[14]

--- Eh?

「!Nii--san, just now ---

I immediately turned to the source of the voice.

In front of me was a group.

One of them, a girl was holding a newly published *The Cutest Little Sister in the World*volume and boasting with her friends.

My eyes followed the book in her hands ---

“--------------“

That was a chance encounter between us.

…Turning back to the tablet, I whispered:

“…Just now…that girl…she has a copy of our book.”

「….Really?

“Yes. My story. Eromanga-sensei’s illustrations – she bought it.”

「….I’m so glad.

“Um.” I agreed, my voice hoarse “Me too…my nervousness is gone.”

It was worth it.

Writing this book was worth it.

I could see others happily buying my book. Just this alone is worth 1.000.000 points.

「Let’s go, Nii-san.

“Um. Sure, but before that ---“

Putting my chaotic thoughts to the side, I turned back.

The backs of those girls were getting further away.

I silently wished:

--- May our story make you happy.

Today is a nice day, a good day to write.

Under the blinding light ---

I entered the bookstore with my little sister together.

After (secretly) watcheing the situation at the Akihabara bookstore regarding Izumi Masamune’s newest novel, I returned home.

--- **Let’s go back soon**

Although she didn’t say why, my little sister asked me to go back soon.

I stopped at the front door and looked at the second floor.

Beneath the mask, Eromanga-sensei was staring down at me from *the locked room*’s window.

“……Again huh.”

Last time when I came back from the trip, when I asked why Sagiri had to conceal her face ---

Her answer was “I’ll die if I meet other’s eyes.”

….Of course, my real question “So why do you look outside” remained unanswered.

Today, she wore a mask as usual. Noticing me, she quickly closed the curtains and disappeared.

“…What is she doing?”

Even I had seen it before, I still don’t know how to react to this unreal scene. I opened the door and entered the house as usual.

“I’m home ~”

I called to the second floor, even when I knew that no one would answer me.

But ---

Thud thud thud

"…Huh?"

Thud thud thud

The sound of footsteps came from the stairs.

"….Sa…giri?"

I stood here stunned. In front of me was --

My little sister, who had come down from the second floor.

For a year, she never left her room when I was still at home.

Until we spoke about *our dream*, on a rare chance sometimes she went outside.

When *our dream* was about to be destroyed, although she was trembling, she still forced herself to partly come down and yell at me, stopping me.

It had only happened two times.

Thud thud thud

Her hand on the stair rail, her legs looked like they might give out at any moment ---

Sagiri slowly came closer ---

Finally …

Thud

She stopped in front of me.

"You…."

I was so surprised that I was unable to say anything.

"…Phew…phew…"

Putting a hand on her chest, Sagiri breathed heavily.

"…..Phew…phewwwww…."

After a while, both she and I managed to recover at the same time. I said:

"Sagiri…you can go out of your room now?"

She shook her head.

"….Just a bit. I barely managed to do that."

The evidence to this was that her legs were still trembling, her forehead was covered in sweat, her face was pale.

I knew it…her condition isn't going to be cured that easily.

The scene when she was forcefully taken outside of her room a year ago was still fresh in my mind. Everyone thought that she was incurable. That was why I need to be extra careful in our relationship. No matter how hard it is, I had promised to be her guardian.

I didn’t think that outsiders could understand this point. If I hadn’t seen it with my own eyes, I couldn’t either.

But I still, for once, decided ---

“The little sister coming to the front door” is a very “normal” activity to others, but to me it’s a miracle. I wanted nothing more than to hug her.

“….So troublesome. What should I say?”

Should I cry? Or laugh?

“I, I, secretly trained. Although…before…I couldn’t….but today is …a valuable memory for us…so I have to….”

She put a hand over her chest and breathed a sigh of relief.

“It feels really good.”

“--------

Ah…now I get it.

Since the moment I came back, Sagiri had been training.

But back then she couldn’t come downstairs…so she apologized for being unable to finish training by the time I came back.

“You…really…”

Why were you apologizing? How could I…get angry?

“You’re an idiot.”

Don’t apologize. I’ll cry.

“You’re so mean. I tried really hard.” She pouted.

This moment, she looked like anormal little sister – a cute, meekly little sister.

Despite her trembling legs, her sweat covered forehead, her pale face – I didn’t care. We looked like a normal pair of siblings.

“You’re an idiot. No one will believe if you said so – but you’re amazing. Really really amazing.”

“Hm, don’t treat me like a child…ah, you almost made me forgot the main topic.”

My cute, innocent little sister raised a new book and smiled proudly:

“Welcome back, Nii-san. Congratulations about your new book. ”

“I’m home, Sagiri. There were numerous illustrations made by Eromanga-sensei inside that bookstore.”

Today, we fulfilled two dreams.

“I, I don’t know ---“

“Alright, I got it. Thank you very much.”

And then ---

“Please take care of me from now on.”

Let’s us continue our dream together.

I knew that this road would be filled with hardship.

But we will walk it with a smile.

“That’s my line, please take care of me.”

Epilogue

エロマンガ先生
④
プロローグ

September the 12th .

My newest novel *The Cutest Little Sister in the World* has been sold for two days.

After two days – reader's opinions began to appear on the Internet.

A newbie author would be nervous and try to look at a forum on the internet to listen to any information about his novel. But not for someone who had given up on the Internet like Izumi Masamune. There would be a while until I cared about them.

I asked my editor to pick some good opinions from the Internet, and I received mail from readers or someone told me – that was how I became aware of my reader's opinions. Right now – it would be a lie if I said I don't want to know what others think about my novel, but I can bear it.

Still, there are many types of people in the world. From the ones who crazily surf the Internet like Elf to the ones who don't give a damn about the readers like Muramasa-senpai.

There are so many types of people.

Anyway, I'm getting off track.

Today, I'm not troubled because I don't know what my readers thought. In fact, now isn't the time for me to worry. Not when right now there was very troublesome problem in front of me.

Let me make it clear:

I'm sitting inside *the locked room.*

Together with two beautiful light novel authors, both are wearing erotic bikinis and playing Twister.

"No, no! It's so embarrassing! What kind of pose is that…"

"Kukukuku….do you feel hopeless, Muramasa? Didn't I say so – this is the condition Eromanga-sensei made to let Masamune take part in that trip! Don't try to run away!"

"I never thought that I have to wear this shameless clothing to play Twister!"

"Of course you don't. I hid the facts to make sure you would agree."

"You! You dare…!"

"I'm wearing this too, so everyone is equal, alright?"

"No we aren't…! Not that…You…you pervert!"

Muramasa-senpai was playing together with Elf.

On the side, Sagiri turned into Eromanga-sensei mode and was totally focused on drawing erotic illustrations. Normally, there was no way she would let three people inside. But when she turned into Eromanga-sensei… it didn't become a problem anymore.

Or rather, when she turned into that mode, aside from the fact she couldn’t go out, she is like any other normal girl. To her, there is a big different between “letting someone inside my room” and “ going outside”.

*Shuushshuush*Still drawing, Eromanga-sensei kept giving orders like a film director:

“Muramasa-chan, right hand to red! Elf-chan, left hand to yellow! Oh damn it – I can’t see anything!”

Pushing the mask to the side, her cute face was revealed.

Unlike normal games, you will make some erotic poses as long as you followed Eromanga-sensei.

Not to mention….

“Kuh….Ma, Masamune-kun! Why are you here? You looked like someone proudly sitting in the middle of girl’s changing room !”

“There is no need for you to say anything! It's not like I like it! But I have to! If Eromanga-sensei turned berserk I'm the only one can stop her!"

"You’re just making an excuse! You want to look right? Why don’t you stop her now?"

"Don’t be mistaken! Look, I’ve been covering my eyes since the beginning!"

"Re, really? You didn’t secretly look?"

"No I didn’t! I’ve see nothing! A truthful description is "since I slammed my eyes shut I can’t see anything"."

I turned to the general direction of that voice -- to the one in the erotic bikini, Muramasa-senpai and answered.

"Ohhh….but…..even though….while I can still handle you looking at me…."

"Muramasa-chan, although you said that, you actually want to show your erotic side to the one you like, Masamune, don't you?"

"Wh, what nonsense! I, I'm not such a shameless girl….!"

I knew it would turn out this way the moment I heard we would be gathering in our home.

"Alright Muramasa-chan, next left leg to blue."

"Okay…"

Eromanga-sensei coldly continued.

By the way, now the computer inside was broadcasting "live video". Noticing this, Muramasa-senpai panicked:

"Ah! Could, could it be...that….people are seeing everything here on a live video?"

If that were the case, I bet someone had already banned us.

Eromanga-sensei kept drawing while answering:

"Don’t worry, it's just showing a previous recording."

Before she decided to show something, she needed to check it again and fix anything that didn’t meet her standard.

What a hardworking girl. But that is to be expected. After all, aside from drawing, live video streaming is something really important to Eromanga-sensei. This is a way for my hikikomori little sister to interact with her fans.

But seeing how focused she was, I doubt that she knew anything about the world right now…just like how I was whenever I had a new idea.

"Good good! Keep making that super embarrassed expression!"

With a bright smile, Eromanga-sensei wiped her forehead.

"Ehehe, what would people think if I showed them this?"

"Whatever." "No nonono! I'm gonna die! Someone will be killed! "

When everyone were shouting ---

Suddenly, the computer *brrr*.

"Eh?" "Is it broken?" "Is that a timed function?" "Did you install something strange?"

Everyone had their own ideas, so our eyes focused on the screen . For a few seconds, the screen still showed Eromanga-sensei ---

BiriBiri

Then the screen shook ---

Brr! Finally, a strange person appeared on the screen.

"!" "…What the?" "This is…"

Our eyes were glued to "that person".

Yes. That was a strange person -- someone strange even among this strange situation.

If I had to describe them….

"That person" wore an anime mask, with a big coat covering their whole body. Although the other side was dark, the image's resolution was low, but I could guess that I was bigger than they were.

Sound familiar? Yeah I know. But that can't be helped.

"…This is…."

Because everyone here knew that person.

"Exactly like Eromanga-sensei!"

"No, it's not me!"

Sagiri replied in a firm tone. If she was here then that person couldn’t be Eromanga-sensei. Even if it was a recording, I'm still sure of it.

The fake Eromanga-sensei on the screen -- although looking similar to Eromanga-sensei, there were differences. From the coat to the anime mask, both were black.

「Hey, are you watching ---

That person raised his voice in a mechanical tone. His mask had a smiling face like any proper antagonists. Not to mention his tone was suitable too.

He laughed like a spoiled kid, and said:

「Are you watching, fake?

"!?"

I glanced at my little sister. This was clearly aimed at Eromanga-sensei. Sagiri's eyes widened.

"Fake? Are you…talking about me?"

「Yes. You, who stole my name, you fake Eromanga-sensei.

I don’t know if it was a coincidence or not, but that person looked at Sagiri:

「Listen carefully, fake!

He pointed his finger at himself:

「I'm the real Eromanga-sensei!

==Translator's Notes==

1. ↑ A healing type writer is an author who trying to have a happy ending in a very dark setting. Example: Gen " Urobutcher".
2. ↑ Yakisoba is a Japanese noodle dish based on Chow Mein.
   Ikayaki is baked or grilled squid.
   Takoyaki is a ball shaped Japanese snack usually filled with Octopus.</br>

3. ↑ The Eight Thunder-gods
4. ↑ The raging destruction black thunder Muramasa
5. ↑ http://myanimelist.net/anime/5940/Seiken_no_Blacksmith
6. ↑ http://myanimelist.net/anime/6758/Tatakau_Shisho:_The_Book_of_Bantorra
7. ↑ Suikawari: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suikawari
8. ↑ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kindaichi_Case_Files.
9. ↑ http://pc.watch.impress.co.jp/docs/2003/0422/docomo01.jpg
10. ↑ A japanese show that basically work like twitter
11. ↑ A reference to Electro / Max Dillon (Jamie Foxx) from Amazing Spiderman2
12. ↑ Two people eating a same candy from two ends
13. ↑ Traditionally, it's true that Japanese woman do not wear anything under the kimono. But not in the modern time anymore.
14. ↑ A reference to this: http://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Ore_no_Im%C5%8Dto_ga_Konna_ni_Kawaii_Wake_ga_Nai:A_Momentary_Chance_Encounter (Kirino's gang)